

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency



The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, is the government agency for bilateral international development cooperation and most of Sweden's cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe. This booklet briefly describes Sida's mandate, organisation and programmes. More information is found in our annual report and on www.sida.se

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Several of Sida's commitments focus on education, for example in Cambodia.

Sida – Sweden's instrument for development cooperation

World poverty has changed dramatically over the past decades. Life expectancy in developing countries has increased by 20 years, illiteracy has nearly halved and during the 1990's the share of the world's population who subsist on less than one euro a day declined from 29 to 23 percent.

It is thus clearly evident that material poverty can be eliminated or reduced.

At the same time, the gap between rich and poor has never been greater. In the long run, the welfare

of rich countries cannot continue unabated while millions of people in other countries suffer from poverty, conflicts, environmental degradation and social insecurity.

Over the past ten years, a united world community has adopted declarations and actions programmes that identify the struggle against poverty as their highest priority. Never before has such unity been demonstrated.

One of the firmest expressions of the struggle

“It is time to close the gap between words and deeds. Each day, tens of thousands of children die because of hunger or diseases that are easy to cure. This is totally unacceptable and unworthy of the global community.

It is time to bring about real change for the people who need it most. It is time to give hope to the young that they will live in a safer, more just and environmentally sound world. Only concerted action will do this.”



Prime Minister Göran Persson at the Earth Summit in Johannesburg
3 September 2002.

against poverty is the so-called Millennium Declaration that the UN General Assembly adopted in September 2000. Its main target is to reduce world poverty by 2015 by 50 percent.

The challenge for Sweden, as well as other countries, is now to realize the goals set by the world community and move from idea to action.

Development cooperation is one major component of these efforts but, to reach the goals, it must be supplemented by additional measures in other areas to achieve results.

Sweden can, both independently and through the European Union, act to ensure that trade, foreign and agricultural policies are formed in such a manner that poorer countries are not adversely affected. We can work for a more just deal in international trade agreements, allowing greater participation by poorer countries.

Enhanced cooperation and coordination between donor countries and international organisations is necessary if all are to progress in the same direction. Our contributions must be channelled to areas most in need. Coordination can be achieved if resources are distributed through UN agencies or, for example, the World Bank. We can also work together with other national development agencies.

► In September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Declaration was adopted. The Declaration contains the following eight goals:

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day.

Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Achieve universal primary education

Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

Promote gender equality and empower women

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

Reduce child mortality

Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

Improve maternal health

Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Ensure environmental sustainability

Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

Develop a global partnership for development

Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory.

Address the least developed countries' special needs.

Global responsibility

Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, has been assigned by parliament and the Government to invest most of the resources which Swedish tax payers contribute towards reducing world poverty.

During 2003, a total of SEK 15.9 billion will be channelled to development cooperation, both bilaterally between Sweden and individual countries and regions, and through international organisations and the European Union. Sida handles nearly SEK 11.3 billion of this sum. Sweden is one of four countries that meet the Millennium Development Goal target of committing 0.7 percent of the gross national income to development cooperation.

Of total resources for development cooperation, approximately 60 percent is disbursed bilaterally by

Sida. Parliament and the Government decide funding, with which countries Sweden should cooperate and the focus of this cooperation.

Sida is presently involved in nearly 120 countries. However, a major portion of resources are invested in some forty countries with which Sweden has long-term and especially deep cooperation.

Additionally, Sweden contributes to multilateral development cooperation through international organisations. Most of these resources are channelled to UN organisation such as WHO, Unesco,

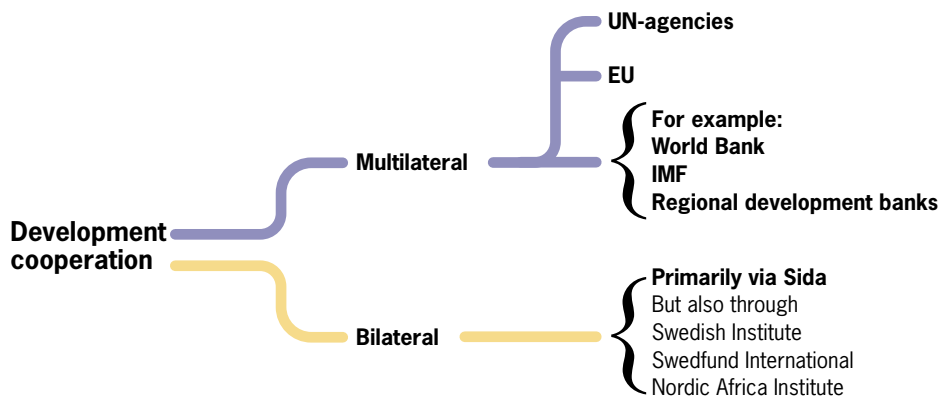




Photo: WFP/Mike Huggins

Sweden annually commits more than SEK 200 million to the UN World Food Programme for activities such as the relief and recovery operations in Afghanistan.

UNHCR and Unicef. This also includes resources in support of the World Bank, the regional development banks and the European Development Fund.

In 2002, Sweden, as a member state of the European Union, contributed SEK 757 million to the Union's development cooperation. The EU and its member states are the world's largest donors.

The Government has appropriated a total of SEK 749 million for development cooperation with

Eastern and Central Europe in addition to the regular development cooperation budgetary framework.

Sida administers a large part of Sweden's development cooperation. The agency estimates that its administrative costs in 2002 amounted to SEK 642 million, which roughly corresponds to six percent of the nearly 11 billion channelled through Sida that year. Most these costs were staff salaries and related costs.

The struggle against poverty

Reducing poverty has always been, and remains, the primary objective of development cooperation. However, the major changes that have taken place in the world over the past 40 years – such as globalisation and technological advances – have prompted a re-orientation of previous strategies to a new holistic perspective.

Poverty is not only lack of material resources but also lack of power and choice. Poverty deprives people of the freedom to decide over and shape their own lives. Sida's overall guidelines "Perspectives on Poverty" are based on the fact that:

- Overall responsibility rests with partner countries
- Poverty has many dimensions, which requires a holistic approach
- Poverty is manifested in many ways and careful analyses and assessments of available resources are needed before measures are initiated.

The fact that the word "assistance" nowadays seldom is used reflects the new approach. Assistance might be seen as a unilateral donation. However, alleviating poverty is a common international concern, necessary for the stable development of all countries of the world. Development cooperation is strategically important in these efforts by expanding the scope for poorer countries to participate in global affairs.

Development cooperation builds relations and networks that also benefit Sweden. Through Sida, Sweden participates in international efforts to solve global problems. Decreasing Baltic Sea pollution, eradicating contagious diseases and establishing sustainable approaches to forestry are example of areas important to Sweden and its population.

Development cooperation also helps establish relations and networks that benefit both Sweden and its partner countries. Businesses, institutions, local authorities and experts are all involved in these efforts, leading to new and more extensive relations.

Both in the short and long term perspective, Sida contributes towards Sweden's development. Swedish companies gain access to new knowledge and opportunities to establish operations in new markets. By their involvement in development cooperation activities, they too can become instrumental in raising knowledge and skills in areas of importance for the country.



Sida has provided support for investments in several water treatment plants in the Baltic countries. Commitments have especially focused on eliminating the so-called hot spots and pollution levels have now decreased.

Cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe

Sida's activities in Central and Eastern Europe are based on a bill adopted by parliament in 2001. The overall objective is to "promote sustainable development, coherence and partnership in the Baltic Sea region and neighbouring areas". The needs of partner countries form the basis for cooperation utilising Swedish resources. It encompasses six main areas:

- Common security
- Enhanced democracy
- Economic transition

- Social security
- Environmental protection
- Training and research.

Activities in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will gradually be phased out as the countries join the European Union. In other partner countries – including Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus – activities focus on assisting the process of transition and participation in European cooperation.

Government agency

Sida is one of approximately 300 agencies in the Swedish central Government administration. The Government appoints the Director General and the agency's board. The board is largely advisory but it approves Sida's annual budget proposal to the Government, the annual report and evaluations plan.

The board has eleven members who represent large organisations as well as the political, business and academic communities. The Director General of the agency chairs the board.

The primary function of Government agencies is to implement laws enacted by parliament. State agencies are responsible to their principal ministry, which for Sida is the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Their activities are regulated by the Government, primarily through appropriation directions and directives. However, ministers or ministerial bodies may not interfere with the agencies' handling of specific administrative cases. The Government monitors performance through its various auditing agencies.

Sida is – according to the Government instruction – the state agency for Sweden's bilateral development cooperation and commitments to Central and Eastern Europe. In addition to bilateral activities, Sida, as decided by the Government, also administers multilateral commitments.

Parliament and the Government have decided that Sida, in its development activities, shall encourage participation by Swedish non-governmental organi-

sations, institutions and companies and disseminate information about development cooperation.

Sida's operations are guided by parliamentary decisions concerning, for example sustainable development, poverty reduction, democracy and human rights, the regional strategies for Asia and Africa, conflict prevention and gender equality. Sida's Director General has also issued several guidelines that clarify how the agency can fulfil parliamentary decisions.

► SIDA'S STAFF

In May 2003, Sida had 764 regular staff members with 156 persons posted abroad. Nearly 60 percent were women. The average age among staff members was 47 years. More than 70 percent of Sida's employees have academic qualifications or other tertiary education, twice as many as the Swedish Government administration as a whole.

Sida abroad

Sida personnel abroad play an important role in preparing country strategies. In dialogue with partner governments and other stakeholders, obstacles and opportunities for development are analysed and areas of support proposed. The agency's country offices also monitor and evaluate partnership programmes. Reports on progress are issued quarterly and once a year a report is prepared together with staff from headquarters. Evaluations are carried out according to a certain time schedule. Coordination with other countries, particularly EU states, is increasingly important.

The wider the scope of Sweden's development cooperation is, the larger the staff representation. Responsibility for development cooperation activ-

ities is often held by a counsellor of the Swedish embassy and in some of the major partner countries, Sida has an extensive presence with a high degree of local responsibility. Over the coming years, Swedish embassies will assume greater responsibility for development cooperation. When Sweden has a smaller financial commitment in a country, fewer officers are outposted and major decisions are taken at headquarters.

In countries with which Sweden has limited political, consular or trade relations but development cooperation activities necessitate local representation, the embassy is staffed by Sida personnel.

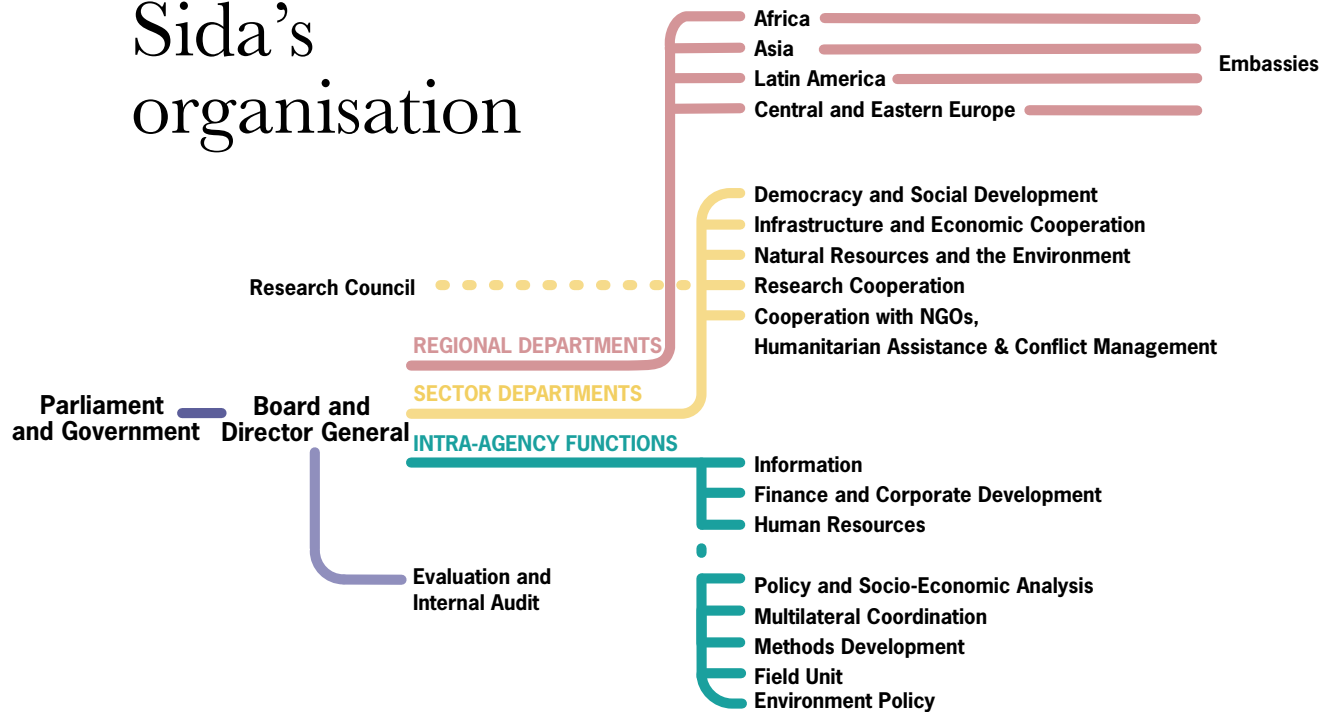
In its annual budgetary provisions, parliament decides on the appropriation of funds for and focus of development cooperation. Following that decision, the Government issues an appropriations directive outlining the resources at the agency's disposal and the allocation among Sida's different accounts.

The Government underlines that a "multidimensional and integrated" approach to poverty reduc-

tion shall guide and determine all activities and commitments. It also underscores the importance of promoting democracy and human rights, efforts against HIV/AIDS and children's rights. In all its activities Sida shall pay particular attention to the effects for both women and men. Partner countries will be given better opportunities to integrate environmental considerations in their overall policies.



Sida's organisation



The Government appoints the board and the Director General. The Director General chairs the 11-member board. Board members represent political parties, trade and industry, unions and non-governmental organisations.

As previously mentioned, the board is largely advisory but it approves the agency's annual budget proposal to the Government, the annual report and evaluations plan. The Director General bears ultimate

responsibility for ensuring that governmental and parliamentary decisions are carried out. Management consists of the Director General, the Deputy Director General and the eleven Heads of Departments and Secretariat.

Sida's headquarter is organised in regional and sector departments.

There are four regional departments for Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe. The

regional departments have overall responsibility for cooperation with their regions. They formulate strategies and monitor that activities comply with these strategies.

The five sector departments analyse and assess proposals for projects. They also have a continuous responsibility to ensure that Swedish commitments are planned and executed to reach stipulated objectives. While a project is being implemented, the sector departments collaborate with the Swedish embassy in the partner country in monitoring results.

The Department for Democracy and Social Development works with issues related to democracy and human rights, public administration, health, education, culture and media.

The Department for Infrastructure and Economic Cooperation works to support development in the fields of energy, telecommunications, transport, urban development and environment, private sector, economic cooperation, capital market development, trade, soft loans and concessionary loans.

The Department for Natural Resources and the Environment is responsible for support in the area of natural resources, with special focus on forestry and agriculture, environment, fishing and rural development.

The Department for Research Cooperation supports research organisations, universities and research institutes in partner countries as well as regional research networks and international research programmes. Through Sida's Research Council, the Department provides support for development research in Sweden. The Council has 11 members of whom two members represent Sida and the remainder research institutions. The Government appoints the chairman and representatives of the research community.

The Department for Cooperation with NGOs and Humanitarian Assistance & Conflict Management channels Swedish support through popular movements and non-governmental organisations. The Department is responsible for humanitarian assistance, reconstruction, and works with peace and conflict management. It is also responsible for Sida Civil Society Center in Härnösand.

The Information Department is responsible for Sida's external and internal communications and provides support for information activities by non-governmental organisations.

The Department for Finance and Corporate Development is responsible for accounting and financial management, methods and operations development, and IT issues. The Department is also responsible for legal matters, procurement issues and office services.



The Human Resources Department is responsible for personnel issues, human resource development, organisational learning, international training programmes, international recruitment and resource base development.

The Secretariat for Evaluation and Internal Audit reports directly to Sida's board. It has the overall responsibility for evaluations at Sida. It examines and assesses the agency's internal controls, efficiency and security.

The five units for **Policy and Socio-Economic Analysis, Multilateral Coordination, Methods Development, Environment Policy and Sida's Field Unit** coordinate policy issues in their respective areas and provide support and expertise to sector departments.

► 44 OFFICES IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

Sida's overseas organisation consists of 44 offices in major partner countries. Since 1995, Sida's representation is fully integrated with the Foreign Ministry mission staff at Sweden's embassies.

Developing a strategy for Zambia

Sida's overseas organisation plays an important part in developing the country strategies. For over a year, Counsellor Kristina Kühnel and her colleagues at the embassy in Zambia have been developing and achieving consensus for measures and direction of the new country strategy.

The embassy has formed a national reference group with representatives of the private and financial sectors, universities and civil society. The group reviews documents and gives its views on conclusions. In Stockholm, a working group for the Zambia country strategy has been constituted. The process also involves consultation with the Government of Zambia. "The Zambian reference group is a new exciting approach," says Kristina Kühnel.

Sweden's development cooperation is presently characterised by a greater emphasis on activities to reform and strengthen institutions and systems. "The agricultural sector as a whole must develop if the life of the ordinary farmer is to improve. Effective policies and institutions that can create a

sustained framework for production increases, thereby raising incomes and improving food security, are needed. However, this is not our only approach. We also work with programmes directed to and of concern for individuals.”

Coordination among donor countries has been strengthened, especially on the local level. The Swedish embassy in Lusaka maintains close contacts with, in particular, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, the Netherlands and the UK. “We all support similar programmes here in Zambia and therefore try to coordinate our efforts to avoid a situation where all of us approach the Government with the same issues. Through excellent relations with the European Commission we can also ensure that our efforts are not duplicated or that we both fund similar programmes.”

The country strategy consists of a country and a result analysis that together form the basis for future cooperation. The country analysis particularly focuses on the prospects for development and poverty reduction – in other words the political determination to confront poverty issues. Economic factors that affect development – both those that the country itself can influence and external factors – are assessed. In the area of democratic development, the division of power and greater participation in decision-making are assessed. Regional issues, such as refugee movements, are also highlighted.

The scope of Sweden’s development cooperation



Photo: Private

Counsellor Kristina Kühnel is actively involved in developing the new country strategy for Zambia.

with Zambia was SEK 161 million in 2002 and a slight increase is anticipated over the coming three-year period. Cooperation will focus on sector-wide activities in health, agriculture and democratic development. Additional support will be provided for the energy sector and private sector development. Greater attention will also be paid to issues concerning urban development.

Sida in action

The country strategies form the basis for development cooperation and Sida's activities. Partner countries bear responsibility for development and Sida provides resources and helps develop knowledge and skills.



Education is essential in safeguarding human rights. Nearly all Vietnamese children attend primary school.

► COUNTRY STRATEGY – VIETNAM

Sweden has been at the forefront of efforts to reform economic, legal, administrative, social and political structures. Vietnam has repeatedly confirmed the Swedish role and the Swedish partnership has helped the country to enter into new fields: "This was particularly evident in Sweden's early involvement in activities in support of economic reform and subsequent support for the judiciary, the national assembly, human rights education and developing a new role for the media."

Excerpt from the Vietnam country strategy 1999-2003. Vietnam has been one of Sweden's partner countries since 1970. During 2001, Sweden invested SEK 354 million in development cooperation with the country. The objective is to achieve long-term and environmentally sustainable welfare and reduce poverty as well as promoting openness, democratic governance and respect for human rights.

Each country has its distinguishing features and the prospects for development vary strongly from country to country. At present, 40 country strategies outline development cooperation with individual countries. These strategies encompass all aspects of the partnership with the country in question and outline Sweden's involvement over periods up to five years.

The strategies are proposed by Sida and approved by the Government. They are based on an extensive dialogue with the partner country, including both the partner government and civil society. The Swedish embassy in the partner country has a key role in this process. In Sweden, the process involves, for example, non-governmental organisations, the Swedish Trade Council, universities and experts.

In order, as far as possible, to integrate Swedish efforts with those of the partner country – and with other donor countries – Sida strives to link the strategy to the partner country's own development strategy.

The country strategy seeks to analyse and describe poverty. Against this background, support to projects and programmes, Sweden's contribution and external factors are discussed. Activities to reduce poverty are:

- Support for structural reform that benefits the poorest, such as democratisation, economic stability, openness and anti-corruption measures.

- Activities aimed at large numbers of the population, such as support for education, rural development and small-scale business development.

Ownership is a key concept. Parties with the will, resources, skills and scope to lead development processes must bear the responsibility for decision making and activities. Ownership entails taking responsibility for decisions and activities. Hence, one of Sida's most important tasks is strengthening the capacity for partners to exercise ownership.

Development processes are complicated and characterised by a great deal of uncertainty. Development does not occur within an established or predictable framework but is the result of continuous development which requires a great measure of flexibility.

Against this background, a growing share of development cooperation will be led from the partner country – by cooperation partners and by Sida's field staff at the Swedish embassy.

Over the next few years, 20 embassies will be given greater responsibility for economic and human resources required for development cooperation in their respective country. Qualified national staff will assume growing responsibility for Sida's cooperation. According to this new approach, the agency in Stockholm will provide the expertise that its staff in partner countries requires.

Expertise in Sweden and abroad

Measures in several sectors are needed in order to achieve efficient and sustained development cooperation. Sweden's activities are therefore planned and formed by people in Sida with different fields of expertise.

Urbanisation and its link to poverty is of great concern to Dr. Sunita Chakravarty. She works with Urban Development and Environment at the Swedish Embassy in Delhi, one of the fastest growing cities in the world.

“The main challenge is to build out the infrastructure so that it can respond to the needs of a rapidly growing urban population,” she says.

As programme manager within the area of Urban Development and Environment, her job addresses issues that arise as a result of rapid urbanisation. Water and sanitation, air pollution and inadequate housing are some examples of problems that particularly affect poor people. In cooperation with experts at Sida headquarters in Stockholm, Sunita Chakravarty selects projects and initiatives dealing with these issues, and recommends them for Sida support.

Sunita Chakravarty has a great deal of experience in urban environment and drinking water issues.

Sunita Chakravarty works with urban development and environment issues at the Swedish Embassy in Delhi



Photo: Tonya Lilburn

Much of this was gained at the World Bank, where she worked for eleven years before she joined Sida. The decision was based on personal reasons as well as professional.

“I have a small daughter, and the personnel policies at Sida suited me much better. Besides, Swedes have a good reputation when it comes to development work. So far, it has worked out wonderfully.”



Many fields of expertise are represented at Sida. The Health Division staff is one example. From left: Paula Sjöström, sociologist/political sciences, Tomas Lundström, social work, Anders Nordström, Head of the Unit/medical doctor, Susanne Lokrantz, public health specialist and Pär Eriksson, economist.

Access to health care for all is a basic human right. Support for health care in development cooperation has evolved. The need for doctors and other health care staff has not declined but a broad view of health care issues is necessary to achieve sustained and lasting improvements in health.

Anders Nordström heads Sida's Health Division. Although he is a medical doctor by profession, it was quite a while since he was an active practitioner. The Division represents combined skills and knowledge in many of the areas that constitute the basis for better health and health care systems, including reform, organisation, funding, behavioural sciences and services as well as pharmaceutical supply systems.

Development cooperation with a public health focus must also consider many of the factors that affect health: traffic, pollution, life style issues and workplace health. "We take a broad view on health issues," says Anders Nordström, who has worked as a Red Cross doctor in Cambodia.

Medical skills are certainly vital but equally important are professional skills in such areas as health care instruction, political sciences, teaching, public health and economics. "We mainly deal with health issues on the sector and macro level. The combined expertise of our Division is a necessary precondition for a cross-sector approach."

Ten thousand days of learning

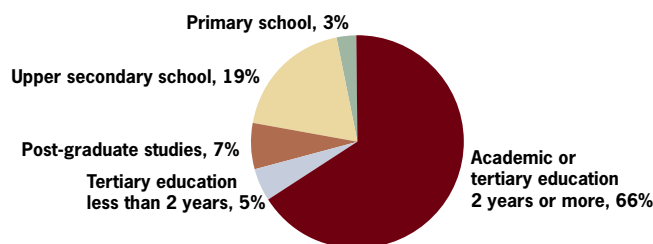
The combined skills and knowledge among its staff are Sida's most important assets. Recruiting, training and retaining staff and their skills are therefore essential in fulfilling Sida's mission.

Among Sida's employees, 66 percent have university-level academic education and an additional seven percent have post-graduate research experience. In comparison with the Swedish Government administration as a whole, Sida has proportionally twice as many employees with academic merits.

In Sida, there is a fundamental awareness of the importance of learning, both with regard to educational background and to finding means of stimulating development and learning at work.

The so-called "skills and knowledge star" was created by Sida to define which skills are important to the organisation. It describes skills in five dimensions.

During 2001, more than 10,000 workdays in Sida were dedicated to learning and skills development, equal to six percent of total working hours. For the second consecutive year, the number of hours allocated to learning increased. The largest increase was noted in strategic skills. However, professional



work-related skills – such as language and IT – take up the largest number of hours.

Learning mostly takes place in day-to-day work. New ways of organising meetings and new forms for learning are continuously being developed.

According to Sida's annual surveys, staff give their organisation high marks for leadership, feel highly dedicated in their work and in opportunities to work independently. However, they also experience increasing stress and Sida therefore offers staff fitness measures as well as courses on stress and leading a balanced life.



Eva Nilsland now works at the Methods Development Unit. Her first job at Sida was as a switchboard operator 20 years ago.

Life-long learning

“Once you decide to try, there is an enormous potential for learning and developing skills,” says Eva Nilsland. She has a combined professional/general services post with the Methods Development Unit. She loves the job that she found courage to apply for after having completed Sida’s mentor programme.

“I joined the mentor programme in 1999 when I found I was stuck in my old job as assistant with general assignments. I felt a need to take greater responsibility and work independently with clearly defined subjects.”

A Head Teacher, a woman the same age as Eva Nilsland, was selected as her mentor. “We met once a month and discussed all sorts of things. We often focused on “how-to” issues; How to better plan your work and how, together with others, handle different situations that arise in daily work. During these talks, I started thinking in new ways.”

The mentor programme is available to all Sida employees, one of several of the agency’s training programmes. In an ever-changing world, the agency faces new demands on activities and staff skills. Employees can select from a range of educational opportunities – from university-level courses to lunchtime discussions on current topics.

At the Unit, Eva Nilsland is now responsible for information and communications. She also works with finance administration and as web editor. To master these new areas, she received training both within Sida and through attending courses outside the organisation. She also participated in the basic training scheme in different areas that is offered to all employees.

Twenty years ago, Eva Nilsland started as a switchboard operator at Sida and was promoted to supervisor. She subsequently quit Sida to see the world and start drama acting. Later, she returned and now has no wish to leave Sida due to lack of challenges. “I still have a great deal to learn and that feels both highly encouraging and challenging. I have also achieved a good balance between work and the rest of my life.”

Reducing poverty through information

One of Sida's many assignments is providing information on development cooperation. Sida's information activities also contribute towards reducing poverty.



Photo: Tova Mårtens

The Zenit cafe, located at Sida's headquarters in Stockholm, is a global meeting place for young people. More than 10,000 pupils annually visit Zenit.

► OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR MILLENNIUM GOALS

The Swedish people wholeheartedly support the goal of reducing extreme poverty by half by the year 2015. According to Sida's annual public opinion survey, 90 percent of the population consider measures to reduce poverty important. However, only ten percent believe that the goals in reducing poverty will be successfully achieved. The Swedish popular view of developing countries is often one of disaster and miserable conditions. Long-term efforts are needed to establish more balanced perceptions.

Increasing awareness among Swedes about global development issues and long-term development cooperation, as well as stimulating discussions on these issues, is the objective of Sida's information and communications. The agency's information activities also focus on poverty reduction, especially underlining that reducing poverty by half not later than 2015 can be achieved.

Each year, Sida focuses on one particular Millennium Goal to highlight the link between development and poverty reduction. In 2001, the theme was education, in 2002 health and in 2003 economic growth.

In addition to overall information activities for the general public, young people are a priority group. Raising awareness among young people about development issues and development cooperation mainly involves training of teachers.

Sida's web site, www.sida.se, is an important source of information. The web site attracts more than 60,000 visitors per month. Printed material, such as the Swedish language magazine *OmVärlden*, is also important in ongoing information dissemination.

Teaching global issues

“My students are very interested in global issues, you might even call their interest a real thirst for information. I hope that this also influences their views on immigrants in Sweden,” says teacher Mikael Svensson at the Hulebäck upper secondary school near Göteborg.

He finds many advantages with the global dimension in the school’s curricula. Learning about other countries involves much more than simple geography. Rather, the emphasis is on gaining an understanding of other cultures – both at home and abroad.

Since young people are a priority target group for Sida’s information, teachers in Swedish schools are especially important. Mikael Svensson is one of many teachers who devote a large part of their courses to teaching students about the world.

“Because of my interest in international issues and travel, I chose training to become a teacher in social studies and geography. That was also the reason I sought a post here at Hulebäck, which has an international orientation and an ambitious staff.”

Collaboration with Sida works well, according to Mikael Svensson. Teachers are invited to participate in courses and other educational activities, Sida pro-



Foto: Johannes Berner

Teacher Mikael Svensson discusses fair trade practices with pupils at the Hulebäck School.

vides teaching material, the web site and its links are frequently used, and Mikael Svensson and his classes have visited Sida headquarters in Stockholm.

Mikael Svensson and his colleagues have also participated in seminars organised by the Global School, Sida’s programme to stimulate an increased international educational focus and in 2002 he visited India together with two colleagues. “It was a fantastic trip with 24 teachers and head teachers from schools all over the country. We spent nearly three weeks in India, mostly just outside the small city of Ponneri. From there, we bicycled to the outlying areas.”

Since the international travel programme started in 2000, more than 70 upper secondary schools have participated in trips to Bolivia, India, Namibia, Nicaragua, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Cooperation involves many channels

Swedish development cooperation is manifested and channelled in many ways. To achieve the best possible result in the struggle against poverty, Sida and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs collaborate with non-governmental organisations, other Government agencies and the Swedish business community.

Sida, as an organisation, has increasingly come to stand for expertise in Swedish development cooperation as a whole. The country strategies lay the foundation for long-term cooperation with partner countries and activities focus on support for development as decided by the partner countries themselves. Donor coordination is equally important.

Of Sweden's bilateral assistance investment – which accounts for 60 percent of all disbursements – a total of SEK 1.7 billion is channelled through non-governmental organisations. Sida has so-called frame agreements concerning long-term collaboration with 13 organisations. Additionally, Sida has a similar agreement with the Swedish Red Cross.

Other sectors of Swedish society are also involved. For many years, Sida has helped fund collaboration between Government agencies such as the National Tax Board, the National Audit Office and Statistics Sweden and counterpart agencies around the world. Support is also provided to help partner country

universities improve their research capacity. This partnership seeks to establish a favourable environment for research and training researchers. Swedish universities are involved in many of these projects.

In a similar manner, development cooperation with Eastern European countries has taken the form of collaboration with counties, municipalities and county councils in Sweden.

Programmes for support to trade and industry centre on establishing efficient administrative structures. Credits and investment guarantees are also important in stimulating business and trade in partner countries, programmes that also benefit Swedish businesses.

Over the past decades, Sweden's commitment has evolved from support for individual projects to cooperation focusing on the basic conditions for development. This form of cooperation involves large sections of Swedish society. On the following pages, we give some examples of cooperation between partners in Sweden and other countries.



► COOPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Popular movements

Nearly 300 Swedish non-governmental organisations annually receive support for development projects according to the 80/20 principle. For each Swedish krona the organisations invest, Sida adds four. However, for humanitarian assistance, which is largely channelled through non-governmental organisations, Sida does not require co-funding.

Sweden's development cooperation traces its roots back to the popular movements that historically have played an important role in society. Christian missionaries were active in Africa already in the mid 1800's. The popular movements and non-governmental organisations were also a primary driv-

The International Committee of the Red Cross provides food and other necessities to refugees in the Rafah camp in the Gaza Strip.

ing force when the Government organised its development cooperation more than 40 years ago.

During 2000, Sida channelled SEK 900 million to non-governmental organisations for development activities. The amount was invested in approximately 2,000 activities in over 100 countries. Through this support, Sida seeks to stimulate a dynamic civil society in partner countries and strengthen domestic organisations. Activities focus on partnership with capacity building, and long-term relationships with these organisations are important aspects. Sida's Civil Society Center, in Härnösand, is available as a resource for non-governmental organisations. In addition to its work with training and methodology, the centre offers a forum for discussions on development cooperation.

13 organisations have so-called frame agreements on long-term cooperation with Sida: Africa Groups of Sweden, Diakonia, Forum Syd, Swedish Cooperative Centre, Church of Sweden, LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Cooperation, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Olof Palme International Center, PMU Interlife, Swedish Save the Children Federation, Swedish Organisation of Handicapped International Aid Foundation, Swedish Missionary Council, and Education for Aid Activities.

Five of these organisations annually channel grants to more than 200 smaller organisations. Forum Syd, for example, has more than 130 member organisations.

Business relations and poverty reduction

Private sector development is essential for economic growth in partner countries, especially the involvement of the poor rural population. Stimulating trade and business activity also benefits Swedish businesses.

Sida increasingly seeks to establish effective administrative and legal structures in its support for industry, financial systems and trade. The agency also supports measures to improve physical infrastructure since that is often a requisite for development. The objective is to pave the way for sustainable growth.

The support Sida and Sweden provides for partner countries has also helped Swedish companies to expand their business to other parts of the world.

Sida's credits have, over the years, helped fund infrastructure projects totalling SEK 25 billion. Ericsson, the Swedish telecom manufacturer, is one of many companies that have benefited from Sida loans when it first started trading with China. Untied credits are now increasing being granted, thereby also benefiting non-Swedish companies. The partner country applies and negotiates loans and selects the supplier.

In many countries, private companies experience difficulties in locally finding the necessary funding for investments. A recent example is the promissory notes issued by the Ugandan telecom operator MTN on the local capital market with Sida providing a commercial risk guarantee. The proceeds from the emission are now being invested in expanding Uganda's telephone network, especially in rural areas. Over the coming five years, twice as many households are expected to have access to telecommunications. The Swedish-Finnish telecom operator TeliaSonera is a partner in MTN Uganda.

Limited commitments can also make a difference. Poor people often experience difficulties borrowing money in banks. Micro financing is a concept that encompasses different methods of providing financial services to poor people. More than 20 years of experience has shown that poor people are dependable borrowers who both invest wisely and, if possible, save money. Sida provides support for several micro financing projects in countries such as Bangladesh, Bolivia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Start-South and Start-East are two of Sida's pro-



Through micro-financing poor people can gain access to financial services. Sida supports micro financing projects in several countries. Here is a group of borrowers involved in the activities of the Ugandan micro-financing organisation FINCA.

grammes for Swedish small business investment in Africa, Asia, Latin America as well as in Eastern Europe and the Balkan countries. The programmes offer support for investments, risk reduction and co-

financing of training costs. The objectives of the Start programmes are to stimulate skills and know-how in companies in partner countries.



Democratisation through public administration



Reliable facts and correct statistics concerning the situation in a country are essential for democratic development. The census in Tanzania provides valuable information about the population and living conditions.

Sida supports partner countries in working for human rights and democratic development, often by providing support for a more efficient public administration.

In many countries – including those that have adopted democracy as a political system – lingering remnants of past systems are often found. The rights of citizens are not observed and the democratisation process is impeded. Public administration can either facilitate or obstruct this process. Efficient public administration tends to be favourable for democracy, economic growth and social development while an inefficient and oversized administration squanders resources.

Agencies with responsibility for basic, sector-wide issues play an important role. Among these are agencies for tax revenue, budget and finance, statistics, audit, local authorities and agencies concerned with the justice system.

In the early 1980's, Sida initiated twinning schemes in the Swedish Government administration with sister organisations in partner countries. Over the years, agencies such as the National Tax Board, Statistics Sweden, National Audit Office, National

Financial Management Authority and the National Police Board have made valuable contributions in several countries.

The aim is to offer partner countries the collected knowledge and skills that Swedish agencies have developed over decades, or even centuries, in fields such as administrative systems, organisational models, technology and leadership. Through long-term extensive cooperation, partner countries gain access to Swedish and international experience that can assist them in finding their own solutions. Swedish agencies are now actively involved in activities throughout the world.

These projects require extensive resources over time in order to achieve successful and lasting results. It takes several years before the overall benefits for society at large can be gauged. The positive effects of support for public administration may be indicated by more efficient tax collection, a greater tax base, debt cancellation, a more equitable welfare distribution, greater transparency and accountability, lower administrative costs, demographic development, etc. Public administration reform is a vital area in achieving Sweden's development objectives.

From mission to partnership

Swedish development cooperation traces its roots to the Christian mission movement. The first Swedish missionaries travelled to Ethiopia in the 1860's. Nowadays, missionary work has changed character and is built upon cooperation between churches in Sweden and their "sister" churches in partner countries.

Following World War II, the United States in 1948 launched its Marshall Aid Plan to rebuild Europe. The same year, the United States also initiated an assistance programme for the poorest countries. The United Nations, which was established at the end of the war in 1945, started assistance programmes soon after its formation and Sweden made a small contribution.

In 1952, non-governmental organisations and the Government formed a joint committee for development cooperation, sharing costs. The very first projects in Ethiopia and Pakistan focused on infrastructure and vocational training. Subsequent programmes included assistance for family planning in Sri Lanka.

With growing awareness about poorer countries, support for non-governmental organisations increased. Alva Myrdal (Minister 1967–1973, Nobel Peace Prize 1982) and her husband Gunnar Myrdal (Minister of Commerce 1945–1947, Nobel Laureate in Economics 1974) were prominent advocates for greater Swedish involvement and partici-

pation in international development cooperation.

In the UN, Swedish Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld 1955–1961 played a key part in highlighting the plight of poor nations.

In 1962, Parliament adopted a Development Cooperation Bill that had been prepared by a working group led by Olof Palme (Prime Minister 1969–1976, 1982–1986). The bill stated that the primary objective of Swedish development cooperation was to improve the life of poor people, a goal which still remains. The three objectives of development cooperation in the bill – peace and security, solidarity, and trade – formed the basis for the first Government agency, NIB. This agency was reorganised in 1965 as the Swedish International Development Authority, SIDA. Initially commitments focused on Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Tanzania and Tunisia. These countries were selected because of past Swedish missionary involvement, for political reasons and that former British English-speaking countries suited Sweden.

Three years later, Parliament decided to raise the

amount allocated to development cooperation to one percent of GNP. Sweden, together with the Netherlands, stood in the forefront of efforts to increase development cooperation. In 1970, the UN set the target that all affluent countries should allocate at least 0.7 percent of GNP for development cooperation.

Until the early 1970's, assistance was mainly provided for individual projects as decided by Sweden. During the 1970's, recipient countries gradually gained greater influence and jointly with the donor country decided what project or sector should be a priority.



Ulla Lindström served as minister 1954-1966 and was appointed Sweden's first Minister for Development Cooperation. Shown in the photo is her visit in 1964 to a refugee camp in Gaza.

After the oil crisis of 1973, the Swedish Government raised the share of tied assistance which meant that partner countries were required to purchase Swedish goods as part of the assistance package. By the mid-1970's, 14 countries were designated priority partners. In 1978, Parliament added four objectives to the previous goal of improving living standards for the poorest, including promoting democratisation. Just two years later, in 1980, a new strategy for development cooperation was formulated to benefit the poorest sectors of the population.

During the early 1980's Sweden, like most OECD-countries, supported the World Bank's and IMF's structural adjustments programmes. Sweden underlined that these programmes should not adversely affect the population.

In 1988, the fifth objective was added: promoting a sustainable environment. After the fall of the Soviet Union, development cooperation with countries in Central and Eastern Europe was initiated, funded with resources in addition to the regular development cooperation budget.

The new Sida, Swedish international development cooperation agency, was established in 1995 with SIDA and a number of smaller agencies.

In 2003, the Government launched a bill based on the conclusion of a thorough review of Sweden's policy for global development by a parliamentary commission. Its aim will be to establish a new coherent policy for global economic, social and ecologically sustainable development.

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References

Sida's work is guided by three principal steering documents:

- Sida Looks Forward
- Perspectives on Poverty
- Sida at Work

Annual reports:

- The Sida Annual Report

Read more about the Millennium Development Goals

- The Millennium Declaration (UN) www.un.org/millenniumgoals
- Millennium Development Goals (UNDP) www.undp.org/mdg
- World Development Goals (World Bank) www.developmentgoals.org

Order Sida's publications and read more about our activities on www.sida.se

A world without poverty

A world without poverty and oppression will be better for everybody. In order to solve the major challenges of our era – poverty, environmental degradation and conflicts – great cooperative efforts are necessary. International development cooperation is an investment in giving poor people a better life, in environmental conservation and peace, in democracy and equality. It should pave the way for equal relations and make itself redundant. Sweden participates in this cooperation, in this global assumption of responsibility. Development cooperation mobilises Swedish society and contributes to an international understanding.

Sida's task is to create conditions conducive to change and to socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development.

Peace and security are key prerequisites for development. The prevention of conflicts and catastrophes is an important part of our mission.

The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida contributes resources and develops skills and competence.

Sida's activities span a wide variety of fields. We are often forced to make choices in unique situations. We shall have an in-depth knowledge of countries, development problems and methods of cooperation. Sida should be characterised by a holistic approach, clarity and adaptability.

Sida creates the preconditions for change and sustainable development.

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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