

Central and Eastern Europe

The work of Sida's Department for Central and Eastern Europe on HIV/AIDS is supported by the HIV/AIDS Secretariat. Sida is funding infectious disease control project in the context of the Task Force under the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS). Projects funded by Sida cover a wide scope of interventions with special focus on Russia, the Ukraine and in Estonia. A Swedish key partner in the cooperation is the East Europe Committee of the Swedish Health Care Community (SEEC). The main intervention areas are information and communication, sexuality education, and trafficking. The goal is to reduce the number of new infections in specific groups such as injecting drug users, sex workers and their clients. In addition, support is offered to prevent mother to child transmission.

Central America

Sida is co-operating with Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation activities. Sida's work through its thematic departments and Embassies is advised by the HIV/AIDS Secretariat.

The Swedish support has been mainly channelled through the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including HIV/AIDS is one of Sida's priorities in its health related support to Central America for year 2001–2005. National governments and ministries of health are the main partners responsible for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS, and a major goal is to strengthen national responses in the region.

The Swedish support in the region focuses, in particular, on youth and HIV prevention activities.

Sweden's HIV/AIDS policy and strategy

Swedish development co-operation has been engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS since the mid-1980s. In 1999, Sweden launched an international response to HIV/AIDS in the form of a strategy entitled "Investing for Future Generations".

The strategy outlines the stance of the Swedish government on development and HIV/AIDS. It outlines the basis for Sweden's renewed commitment and the direction it intends to take. Utilising a multisectoral approach it establishes four broad areas:

- Prevention
- Political commitment
- Care and support
- Coping strategies.

For more information:

www.sida.se/Sida/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1265&a=12401

Sida's documents/ instruments on HIV/AIDS

- Investing for Future Generations – Sweden's HIV/AIDS policy and strategy
- How to "Invest for Future Generations" – Guidelines for Integrating HIV/AIDS in the Development Co-operation
- HIV/AIDS and Sida's Country Strategy Process – a manual for integrating HIV/AIDS in the country strategy process
- Eyes on AIDS – Sida's quarterly global newsletter
- hiv@africa – monthly information/discussion forum letter

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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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JUNE 2003

Sida's response to HIV/AIDS

Investing for Future Generations



Investing for Future Generations

HIV/AIDS is a major cause of untimely death world-wide. Over 90% of all HIV-infected people are living in low- and middle income countries and 70% are in Sub-Saharan Africa. The majority of them are young adults in their most productive age.

- **Eastern and Southern Africa** are most affected, but prevalence levels are increasing in **Western Africa**.
- The epidemic in **Asia** threatens to become the largest in the world.
- **Eastern Europe and Central Asia** have the fastest growing epidemic in the world.
- The epidemics in **Latin America and Caribbean** are well established.

HIV and AIDS pose complex development issues which place new burdens on countries, peoples and their development partners. The consequences of these burdens are felt not only today but will also be present in years to come. And if action is not taken now, the **future generations** will experience the worst of the epidemic.

Sida is expanding its response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A resource group has been established, composed of the HIV/AIDS Secretariat in Stockholm, the Africa Team in Lusaka, Zambia, and the Regional Advisor on HIV/AIDS in South Asia.

The new structure to tackle HIV/AIDS is based on the realisation that the pandemic has to be addressed by all sectors of development co-operation. The Swedish response is described in the strategy “Investing for Future Generations”, in which the fight against the pandemic is seen as a fundamental issue for poverty eradication. Both the causes and the consequences of the epidemic reach far beyond the health sector and include all areas of society.

The Regional HIV/AIDS Team for Africa

A Regional HIV/AIDS Team for Africa was established by Sida in 2000. In 2002 it became a joint Team for Sida and NORAD. It consists of a team leader, three Regional Advisors (one seconded by NORAD), an Associate Expert, a Communication Officer and an Administrative Assistant. The Team is located at the Swedish Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia, and has the following tasks:

- Support to Swedish and Norwegian Embassies in Sub-Saharan Africa in the integration of HIV/AIDS in their work and in their dialogue with bilateral and multilateral partners.
- Regional development co-operation on HIV/AIDS.
- Monitoring of multilateral activities in the region on HIV/AIDS.
- Information and communication on HIV/AIDS issues in development co-operation and the identification of research opportunities.

A reference group of seven members (representing different disciplines, experiences and locations within the Sub-Saharan Africa) advises the Team on policies and strategies.

The HIV/AIDS Secretariat

An HIV/AIDS Secretariat was established at Sida HQ, Stockholm, in 2002. It has a Head of the Secretariat and two Programme Officers. The Secretariat's mandate is to enable an environment in which HIV/AIDS is consistently taken into consideration in development work at Sida HQ and the Embassies. This means integrating HIV/AIDS in Sida's policies, programmes and projects, as well as in Sida's dialogue with Governments and development partners.

- To achieve the goal, the Secretariat's main tasks are to:
- Support Sida staff at HQ and the Embassies on HIV/AIDS issues in development co-operation i.e mainstreaming and integrating HIV/AIDS in their work.
 - Provide information on HIV/AIDS to Sida HQ and Embassies.
 - Promote awareness and action on HIV/AIDS in international fora.

The Regional Advisor on HIV/AIDS in South Asia

In February 2003, Sida increased its focus on HIV/AIDS in South Asia by stationing a Regional HIV/AIDS Advisor at the Swedish Embassy in New Delhi, India.

In line with the other teams of Sida's resource group on HIV/AIDS, the advisor's main task is to encourage, support and advise the Embassies in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, and to a certain extent Myanmar and Afghanistan, to integrate HIV/AIDS in their development cooperation programmes. Another important issue is to support and ensure that HIV/AIDS is a part of the policy dialogue with Governments and development partners.

Other areas of work include building networks between the Embassies and relevant partners, monitoring of HIV/AIDS related issues in the region, as well as exploring possible regional support.

Focal Points on HIV/AIDS

Sida's three teams work through and in close collaboration with a network of Focal Points at Sida units and the Embassies. The Focal Points shall drive the HIV/AIDS issue forward in the mainstreaming process of HIV/AIDS into regular development co-operation.

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