

Sida's Support to Urban Development

Sida's support to urban development complies with the principles and goals expressed in the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda, as well as with the Swedish Policy for Global Development.

The overriding objective for Swedish development co-operation is: **"to contribute to create opportunities for poor people to improve their living conditions"**.

Sweden's support for urban development aims to achieve this objective by fighting poverty in urban areas. Issues requiring specific consideration in the urban context include:

- Integration of local and national development – support for decentralisation processes and the integration of poverty analysis into local and national plans and strategies.
- Local governance and urban management – the promotion of good local governance and urban planning involving the private sector and civil society.
- Infrastructure and municipal services – support for increased access to urban infrastructure and local services by the poor.
- Land and housing – strengthening the capacity for urban land management and assisting the development of transparent land legislation and housing policies.
- Environmental sustainability – support for the implementation of environmental conventions through the development of environmental strategies and by reducing vulnerability to natural and man made disasters.

In 2005, Sida's total contribution towards urban development was around US\$ 160 million. Environmental interventions accounted for approximately half of this sum.

Would you like to know more about Sida's support to urban development?

Cities without slums and sustainable cities are the main objectives for Sida's Division for Urban Development. The Division is organized into three groups:

Municipal Services: utility reform, water and sanitation, waste management and district heating.

Urban Settlements: integrated housing, land, urban safety and historic environment.

Environmental Management: capacity development of local and national authorities, physical planning, urban transport, air pollution, industry and awareness raising.

www.sida.se/urban

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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Sida is fighting urban poverty!



Sida's Support to Urban Development

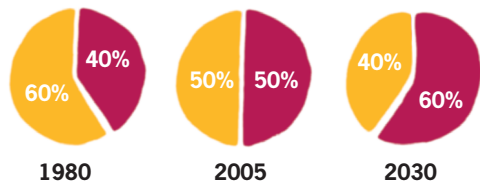


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Urban Development

The future is urban. Currently half of the world's population lives in urban areas and urban societies are rapidly becoming the norm. While urbanisation is not in itself a problem, poverty is becoming increasingly urbanised as the process accelerates in developing countries.

The world's **RURAL** and **URBAN** population



Towns and cities abound with opportunities for fighting poverty. The urban economy is crucial for national economic development and urban areas often possess a vibrant and pro-active civil society, where people have access to knowledge, information and other social resources that are the foundations of democracy. The challenge is to tap this potential and make urban development both pro-poor and sustainable.

Managing rapid urbanisation to deliver pro-poor outcomes is extremely challenging, particularly in countries with insufficient infrastructure and resources, poor governance and weak political and social systems. The most noticeable evidence of this challenge is that over one billion people worldwide live in slum areas. In developing countries approximately 70% of urban populations are poor.

Sida Examples

Over the last few years **Kosovo** has experienced an unprecedented construction boom and urban growth. Due to the very limited capacity for managing these changes, Sida recently decided to support enhanced municipal development planning in six municipalities in Kosovo, to help meet the significant need for spatial and urban development planning.

In **Central America** Sida are supporting incremental housing improvements for low income households through the provision of small loans. Since its inception in 1988, the programme has benefited 95 000 low income families, about 6% of the urban poor in the five programme countries.

Globally. The capital held in traditional financial systems and new micro finance institutions is often inaccessible to low-income households. The Sida supported Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF) therefore aims to develop financial mechanisms that will increase the poor's access to local capital for investments in housing and infrastructure in urban slums.

In **Russia** Sida is supporting a programme to rehabilitate and improve municipal water utilities' services by re-forming legal and governance structures, undertaking financial modelling and tariff projections, and replacing norm-based billing with billing based on actual water consumption.

Cities in **Asia** aiming to improve urban transport systems and develop sustainable transport solutions can receive technical assistance through a Sida supported programme that focuses on improving urban air quality, enhancing road safety, promoting rapid bus transit systems and reducing transport's climate change impact.

The Water Utility Partnership (WUP) is a regional capacity building programme for urban water utilities in **Africa**. The goal of the programme is to support water utilities to increase and improve their water supply and sanitation services to the urban poor through increased investment and utility reform.

Insecure land rights are a major problem in **Kenya**, not least for poor people in urban slums. Sida supports the Government and civil society to jointly address the issues of improved land rights, enhanced access to urban land and slum upgrading.

