

IN BRIEF...

Kenya-Sweden Development cooperation

By channelling funds, knowledge and expertise, Sweden wants to contribute to democratic development, to improving the living conditions of the poor, and to the sustainable use of natural resources and protection of the environment in Kenya.

Kenya was one of the first countries to receive aid from Sweden. The extreme poverty of half the population justifies continued support. But bad governance, corruption and increasing gaps between rich and poor has led Sweden and other donor countries to drastically reduce cooperation during the last ten years.

The December 2002 elections changed the political situation in Kenya. The new government was elected on a promise of change. A peaceful transition was possible due to an ongoing strengthening of the democratic forces in the nation. This positive development has made Sweden and other donors intensify cooperation with Kenya with the objective to reverse the backward social and economic trends. In a climate where a democratic participation of the poorer parts of the population is possible foreign aid can play an important part in the process.

The overall objective of all Swedish aid is to reduce poverty. Poverty is widespread in Kenya, and it has increased, not least in the growing urban areas. The causes of increasing poverty in Kenya are fundamentally political.

There has been a lack of good governance and a small elite has amassed wealth for themselves at the expense of the majority of the people. At the same time, the democratic span in Kenya has increased during the last decade due to a vibrant civil society, a free press and the political opposition.

In the Government Poverty Reduction Strategy the Kenyan poor have themselves defined their problems as depending on lack of land, employment, food and shelter, on poor health and inability to educate children.

Certain groups of people are more vulnerable to poverty than others. Women, children, unemployed youth, victims of HIV/Aids, the landless, subsistence farmers, urban slum dwellers and people with disabilities are among them.

The Swedish aid aims to address several of these issues; efforts to improve democracy and human rights, gender equality and sustainable environment and to combat HIV/Aids are included in all cooperation programmes.

The development assistance from Sweden to Kenya amounts to 194 Million SEK (approximately 1 649 million KES) for year 2003.

The Swedish country programme consists of support to six sectors, the Lake Victoria Initiative, support to Swedish Non-Governmental organisations and a special contribution during 2003 to the primary school reform.

Democratic Governance

Giving more people the opportunity to enjoy a life in dignity is a goal in the development cooperation between Sweden and Kenya. But there are many obstacles on the way towards greater respect for human rights. The widespread poverty makes people vulnerable and marginalized. Most are not aware of their rights and cannot afford to seek legal assistance. Violence and discrimination against women are very big problems and the orphans of aids are an even more vulnerable group.

The hope lies in Kenya's very strong civil society. Sida's strategy has been to find independent partners in civil society for programmes of long-term cooperation in different fields as civic education, access to justice, women's rights, rights of the child and the reduction of corruption.

As an example Sweden works with a number of pressure groups like the Federation of Female Lawyers and the Kenya League of Women Voters to fight the discrimination of women in the political decision-making processes and in the everyday life of family conflicts and inheritance of land and property.

Issues of democracy and human

rights are mainstreamed into all other sectors of cooperation.

Financial Management

The poor governance in the public sector enables corruption to thrive with economic stagnation and poverty as results. To support good governance within the financial management Sweden contributes to the establishment of effective institutions through the Ministry of Finance. Reformed and coordinated systems for budgeting and accounting aim to guarantee that funds are properly disbursed and accounted for.

Agriculture

The majority of the Kenyan people are small-scale farmers and livestock keepers. Land shortage is a serious problem and farms become smaller with each new generation. Poverty in rural areas is increasing due to over-grazing, deforestation and erosion.

The current Swedish support is channelled to NALEP, the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a four-year programme that gives advisory services to smallholders. 300.000 farmers in 900 areas are to be reached.

Rural Health

Sweden has supported rural health care in Kenya since 30 years. Many Kenyans still lack access to basic health care like water, food and sanitation. It is possible to prevent many diseases with fairly simple means: vaccinations, water and sanitation, hygiene. The former regime did not emphasize the health sector but new efforts are now

made. The goal is to reduce infant mortality by two thirds and maternal mortality by three-quarters by the year 2015.

Sida provides support in six districts for the Kenyan efforts to decentralise medical services and facilitate the participation of communities and the civil sector.

Rural roads

Sweden is supporting the Kenyan road sector reform which aims at improving classified roads by using adapted technology and manpower.

The road programme is designed to help the poor get access to markets, to reduce transport costs and travel time and to create employment. The support is concentrated to two districts, Nyeri and Kirinyaga with a possible future expansion into the Nyanza Region near Lake Victoria.

Rural water and sanitation

Sweden has supported the Kenyan water sector since 30 years. At central level this includes support to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in its effort to change its role in a supervising direction. A national water policy is developed.

Sweden also gives direct support to self-help water projects. The focus is on rural water supplies using small-scale technical solutions and where a strong local engagement is a prominent feature. The programme aims to provide 380 000 persons with improved access to safe water.

The Lake Victoria Initiative

The wide spread lake basin around Lake Victoria is among the most poor

and densely populated areas in Kenya. Environmental degradation is acute. Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania invited Sweden to become a partner in their efforts to reverse the present negative trend. The Swedish support is based on decades of experience of cooperation with these three countries and also on the experiences from the joint effort of the countries around the Baltic Sea to halt environmental damage.

Non-governmental Organisations

Several Swedish organisations have been operating in Kenya for a long time with support from Sida. The primary objective is to strengthen relevant Kenyan efforts and counterparts. They include Diakonia, the Swedish Mission Council, the Swedish Red Cross, the Swedish Cooperative Centre, VI-Forest, Forum Syd, the International Trade Union Development Cooperation of LO/TCO, and the Swedish Handicap Organisations International Aid.

Primary Education

In January 2003 the newly elected Kenyan government abolished the school fees for the primary school. The fees had made it impossible for many parents to put their children in school. The result of the reform was an immediate influx of hundreds of thousands of new pupils to the schools. To help Kenya take good care of all the new school children Sweden made a special contribution of 50 million SEK, primarily directed towards textbooks.

More information on each of the sectors of Kenyan-Swedish cooperation is available in special fact sheets.

BASIC FACTS

Programme Estimated disbursements 2003

	million SEK (million KES)	
Democratic governance	28	(238)
Financial management	7	(59.5)
Agriculture, small-scale farming	24.5	(208)
Rural health	18.7	(157)
Rural roads	21.9	(186)
Rural water and sanitation	18.8	(160)
The Lake Victoria initiative	4.5	(38)
Non-Governmental organisations	20	(170)
Primary Education	50	(425)
Others	10.4	(89)

For further information, please contact:

Embassy of Sweden
P.O. Box 30600
00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Visiting address:
Lion Place, 3rd floor
Waiyaki Way,
Westlands, Nairobi
Tel: 020-423 40 000
Fax: 020-423 40 70/1
E-mail: infoken@sida.se
E-mail: embassy.nairobi@sida.se
Homepage: www.swedenabroad.com/nairobi

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.



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AGENCY

SE-105 25 Stockholm Sweden
Telephone: +46-(0)8-698 50 00
Telefax: +46-(0)8-698 56 1