



IN BRIEF...

Transport sector

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Operational areas

One important component in Sida's cooperation is to promote a sound, market-oriented transport sector with clear divisions of responsibilities for the various stakeholders concerned. Sida has the ambition that the contributions shall be permeated by safety considerations and a sound environmental approach. Transport is not a goal in itself. Instead, transport should reflect people's needs and facilitate economic growth and access to social infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. Sida's development cooperation in the transport sector includes:

- sector reforms
- human resource development and institutional development
- road safety

- investments, rehabilitation and maintenance of roads, railways and bridges
- development of alternative road construction methods (appropriate technology)
- reconstruction in areas affected by conflicts and disasters
- urban transport
- international training programmes

Most of the contributions are made in countries in eastern and southern Africa and in Southeast Asia. There are also extensive reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan and the Western Balkans.

Reforms and institution development

The transport infrastructure has been severely neglected in many partner countries. This is often due to short-term economic policies in which the countries have made cut-backs, particularly on the maintenance of infrastructure. Weak organisations and a lack of professional capacity are also contributory causes. Sida supports capacity development

and human resource development in public administrations and also provides support for reform work in the sector. Important components in Sida's support are financing systems, road funds and exposure to competition, often as stages in the process of transition from centrally run state-owned monopolies to units working under market conditions with clear areas of responsibility. In for example Laos and the Western Balkans, Sida is supporting institution development and restructuring processes in the road and railway sector respectively.

Transport infrastructure

Sida's support for rehabilitation of roads is mostly provided for rural roads in, for example, Laos, Mozambique and Namibia. In some cases support is also provided for important national roads and bridges, particularly in cases where credits can be considered, for example in Sri Lanka, Laos, Ethiopia and Mozambique. The rehabilitation of service facilities for the railways in the Western Balkans is another example.

Development of alternative road construction methods (so-called appropriate technology)

In most countries in Africa and Asia Sida is supporting projects that use working methods that have been adapted to available resources. The projects use local resources and a minimal input of machines. Today most of these projects refer to

rural roads in Mozambique, Namibia, Kenya and Laos.

Reconstruction

In recent years requests have been received for speedy contributions after natural disasters and conflicts. With the experience gained from the Mitch disaster in Honduras and Nicaragua, the floods in Mozambique and its contributions in the Western Balkans, Sida has built up the capacity to take rapid action for reconstruction projects whenever the need arises. Contributions are being currently provided in Kosovo, Serbia and Bosnia, and in Afghanistan. In the Western Balkans the contributions have been linked to development contributions that have a long-term perspective.

Urban transport

Urban traffic in many developing countries can be described as a traffic inferno. Public transport networks are of a very low standard and cause major environmental problems. Priority fields for Swedish support include long-term planning of land use and transport systems; organised bus traffic; improvements in the situation of unprotected road users; traffic planning for a better environment and greater road safety; and systems of rules and inspections for vehicles, engines and fuels. Contributions in the urban transport field are administered by the Division for Urban Development and the Environment.

International training programmes

Sida offers its partner countries training in its International Training Programme. Three courses refer to the transport sector: "Road Traffic Safety", "Road Sector Management" and "Environment and Public Transport Management". The training programmes are administered by the International Training Programme Division.

Cross sector issues

Road safety

Road accidents are one of the most common causes of death in many partner countries. The considerable increase in the use of cars in many countries has resulted in a significant increase in road accidents. In addition to human suffering, the cost to society is considerable. This negative trend makes it necessary for all stakeholders, including Sida, to give greater priority to road safety. Sida is supporting both direct projects in the countries and methods development.

Gender

Sida is working actively to ensure that the needs of both women and men are met in transport contributions. Socio-economic studies are being made as background analyses before investment projects are started, and similar studies are then made in the various phases of the projects.

Environment

Over the years Sida has provided support for road authorities to enable them to develop environmental guide-

lines for road construction and maintenance, and for direct environmental contributions linked to these guidelines.

Environmental impact assessments are also made of every single investment project, based on the environmental legislation in the partner country concerned.

HIV/AIDS

Major construction projects in which many people work a long way from home, and the increase in transport as a result of improvements to infrastructure, lead to greater exposure to HIV/AIDS. Sida and its partners in co-operation work with non-governmental organisations in transport projects in order to spread information to the individuals and communities that are exposed to the problem as a result of a project. HIV/AIDS information activities and campaigns are now included in the contracts of the contractors for road investment projects supported by Sida.

Forms of support

Support is given either in the form of a grant or on concessionary credit terms, depending on the focus of the contribution.

At Sida development cooperation in the transport sector is administered at the Department for Infrastructure and Economic Cooperation, INEC, by the Division for Infrastructure and Financing.

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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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