



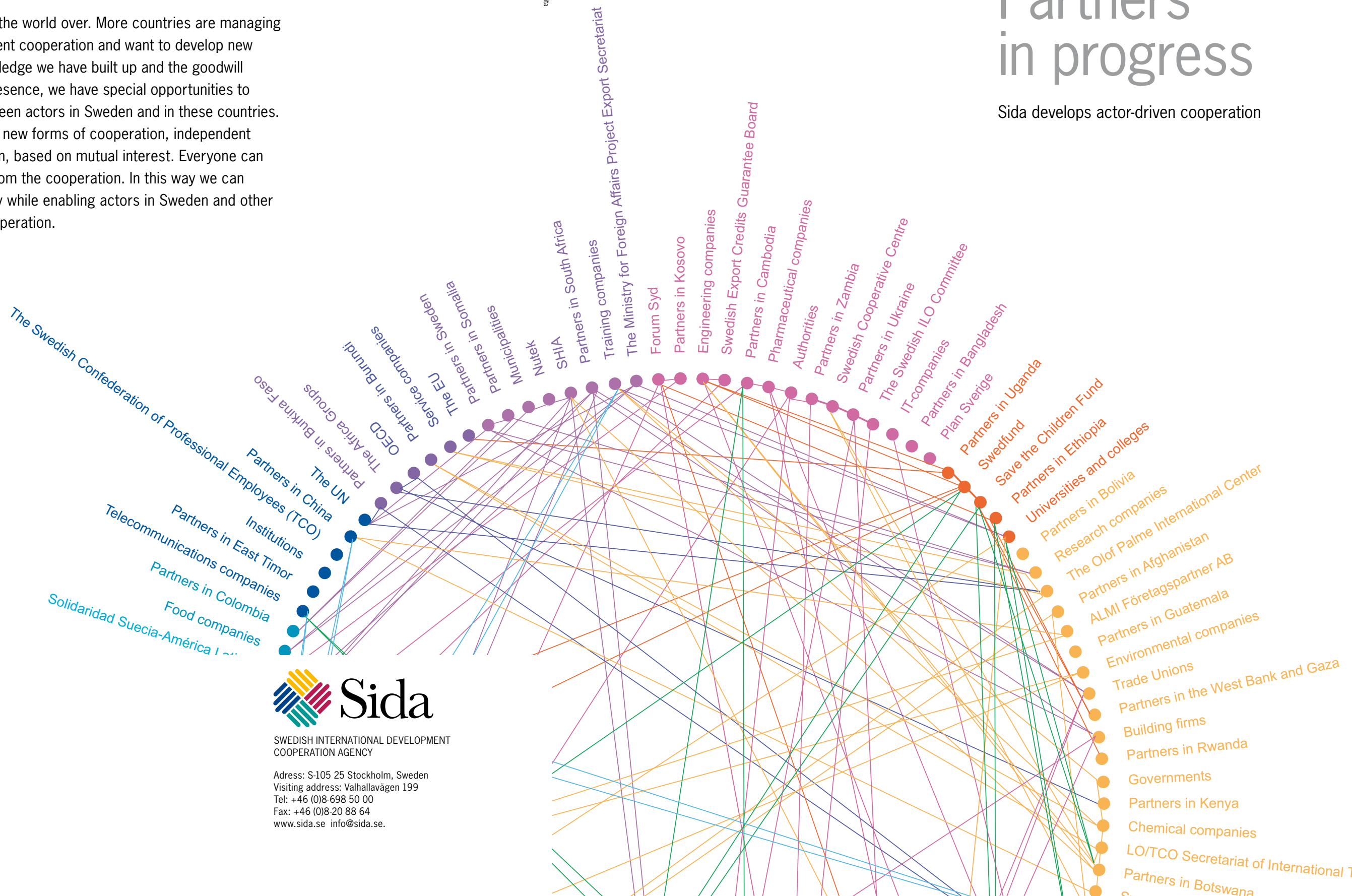
Keep up with development

Development is continuing the world over. More countries are managing without classical development cooperation and want to develop new cooperation. With the knowledge we have built up and the goodwill resulting from Sweden's presence, we have special opportunities to stimulate cooperation between actors in Sweden and in these countries.

We are now investing in new forms of cooperation, independent of development cooperation, based on mutual interest. Everyone can contribute to and benefit from the cooperation. In this way we can continue to combat poverty while enabling actors in Sweden and other countries to develop in cooperation.

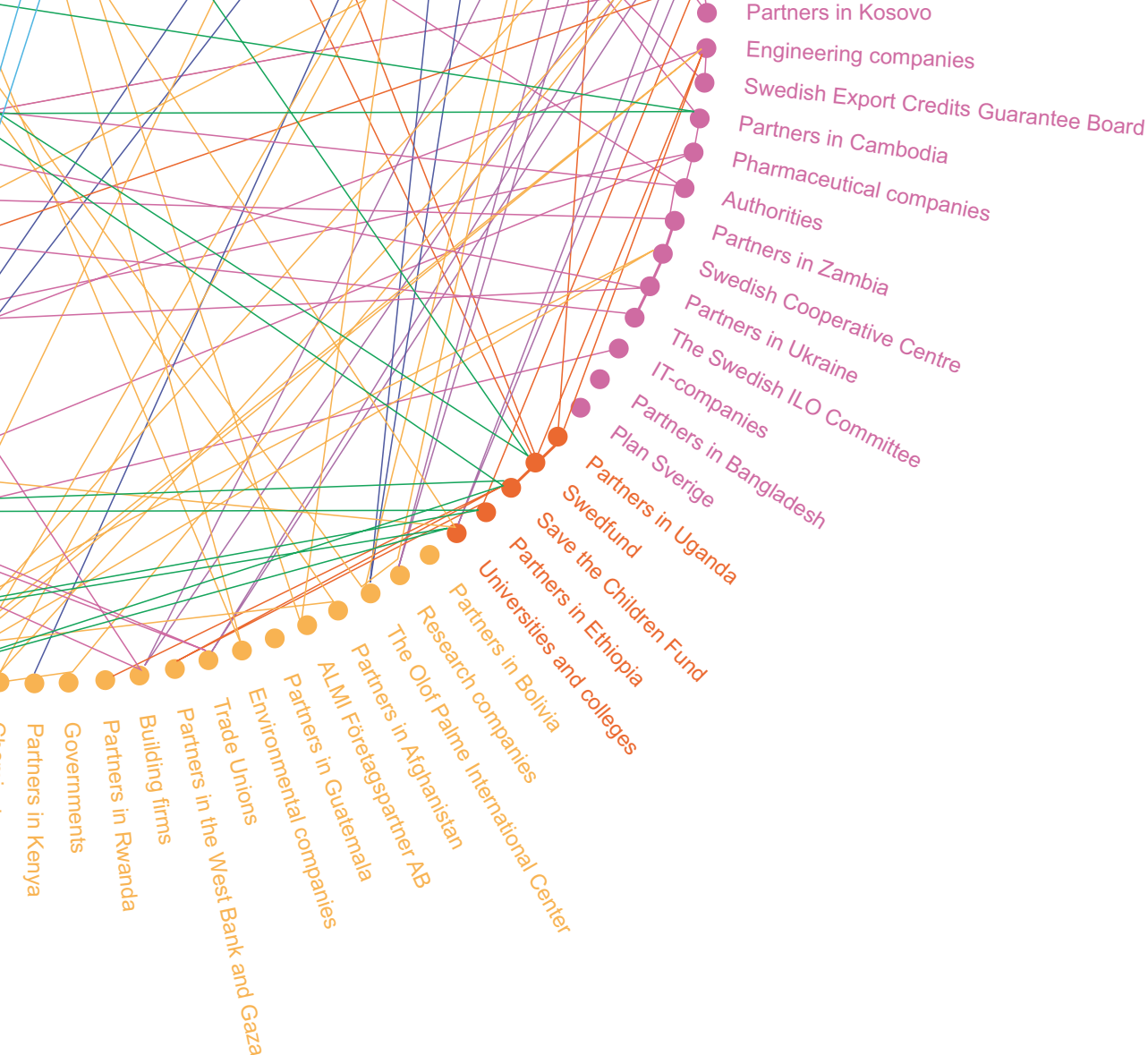
Partners in progress

Sida develops actor-driven cooperation



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AGENCY

Adress: S-105 25 Stockholm, Sweden
Visiting address: Valhallavägen 199
Tel: +46 (0)8-698 50 00
Fax: +46 (0)8-20 88 64
www.sida.se info@sida.se



How can we contribute to new long-term relations?

Equitable and sustainable development in the world benefits everyone. In several countries, there has been sufficient development progress for traditional development cooperation to no longer be necessary. With actor-driven cooperation, we can take the next step together and develop new sustainable relations.

What do we mean by actor-driven cooperation?

When the museums District Six in Cape Town and Malmö Muséer in Malmö cooperate, when both parties invest their own resources and everyone wins – the inhabitants of Cape Town’s shanty towns and Malmö’s Rosengård – that is the kind of actor-driven cooperation we aim for. If scientific institutions from Dhaka and Lund find one another and invest in joint projects without further funding from Sida, or if Swedish companies do business with companies in Vietnam, which in turn create employment with good conditions for poor people, it is also a win-win-win

situation: the poor people win, the actor in the partner country wins and the Swedish actor wins.

Why should we work with actor-driven cooperation?

Last year the Swedish Government decided on a policy of actor-driven cooperation and instructed Sida to implement it, in the first place in seven countries: China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. These are countries in which classical development cooperation has been or will be phased out.

Actor-driven cooperation may also become relevant in countries with classical development cooperation, as a complement to and in preparation for future phasing out. The aim is to maintain and develop the relations that Sweden has built up with important countries over many years, long-term relations that should last without development cooperation funding.

Initially, we can use small amounts of development cooperation to start up cooperation between different actors. Naturally, our requirement is then for the cooperation to also lead to better conditions for poor people to improve their living conditions.

How are we going to stimulate actor-driven cooperation?

Sida already works with actor-driven cooperation in different ways though it is on a small scale and not concentrated.

The new approach means that we will work with actor-driven cooperation on a bigger scale, with more actor circles and using new methods. One idea is to get actor circles to cooperate thematically, for example, on traffic safety in Botswana where cooperation between authorities can stimulate cooperation within research, organisations and businesses.

We cannot dictate which actors will do what, they will have to sort that out for themselves, but we can arrange meeting places: physical and virtual. We can also contribute small, time-limited contributions to get the cooperation started.

How will actor-driven cooperation be funded?

The basic idea is for the actors to fund the cooperation themselves, though it should be possible to use ODA (Official Development Assistance) in the beginning.

The current forms are Research Links, Research and Cultural funds, the Start programmes, DemoEnvironment, twinning and Contract-Financed Technical Cooperation (CFTC). Sida has just launched the Rapid Partnership Mechanism (RPM) which should be possible to decide on in 10–20 days. We are in the process of developing a new kind of support for NGO cooperation.

International Training Programms is not a support for actor-driven cooperation as such but an excellent instrument to create many, long and sustainable contacts between Sweden and other countries.

Who will be responsible for actor-driven cooperation?

Sida’s new country teams will be responsible for starting up actor-driven cooperation in the different countries, but the main part of the practical work – on the Swedish side – will be handled by facilitators such as the Swedish Research Council, the National Council for Cultural Affairs, the Swedish Trade Council and Swedfund. Other authorities may also become relevant, as well as some umbrella organisations.

Sida Civil Society Center in Härnösand can assist with competence and ideas development, and a new department for cooperations with actors will continue to develop methods and forms of financing.

We can see our partner countries build up corresponding systems to stimulate actor-driven cooperation.

A few examples of actor cooperation:

- Sida Research Links, handled by the Swedish Research Council, awards small grants to research institutions to start up cooperation. Once the cooperation has started up, it is to be financed by means other than the grants.
- Our cultural cooperation with South Africa, handled by the National Council for Cultural Affairs, is based on joint investment by Sweden and South Africa in a cultural fund.
- Municipal cooperation, handled by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, is leading to twinning, especially in the East, but also in the South.
- The StartEast and StartSouth Programmes, handled by Nutek, aim to set up cooperation and competence transfer between companies. Swedfund’s work, based on development cooperation funding, is aimed at joint ventures between companies in developing countries and in Sweden.
- Sida’s Baltic Sea Unit in Visby is already working successfully with actor cooperation for organisations, municipalities and regions (though not with development cooperation funds).

