



Swedish development cooperation

This is how it works

What is Swedish development cooperation?

Sweden works with both short-term humanitarian assistance and long-term development cooperation. Short-term assistance is used primarily to provide relief in situations of great hardship, such as natural disasters or conflicts. In development cooperation, Sweden works on a long-term basis with partner countries in order to contribute to these countries' development.

The overall goal of Swedish development cooperation is to contribute to making it possible for poor people to improve their living conditions. By reducing injustices and poverty throughout the world, better opportunities are created for development, peace and security for all people and nations. In an increasingly globalised world we are all dependent on, and affected by, each other. Each country determines its own development and implements plans and strategies for reducing poverty.

Sweden supports governments, agencies, the private sector, organisations and individuals in poor countries. In countries where Sweden cannot; or is unwilling to, cooperate with the government; we instead cooperate with national or international organisations.

Money and politics

Everyone residing and paying taxes in Sweden is financing Swedish development cooperation. In 2008, the people of Sweden contributed SEK 30 billion. How this money is used, and the countries and areas Sweden focuses on is decided by the government and parliament.

According to Sweden's policy for global development (PGD), the overall objective is to contribute to equitable and sustainable global development. Development cooperation is one part of this policy. The rights perspective and the perspective of the poor should permeate all aspects of this work.

FIVE KEY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Democracy, Human Rights and Gender Equality

Poverty implies not only lack of resources, but also lack of power, opportunities and security. This in turn deprives people of the freedom to determine their own future. The overall objective within this area is to contribute to a development based on democracy and respect for human rights and gender equality, with a special focus on the rights of women and children.

Economic Opportunities

Economic growth is important for poverty reduction. Market development and development of agriculture is almost always the first step towards increased economic growth benefitting the poor. Most poor people in developing countries live in rural areas.

Knowledge, Health and Social Development

Education provides people with the tools they need to escape poverty and build a democratic society. Diseases weaken people, decrease their quality of life and involve great costs for care and reduced labour. There is a strong link between investments in social development and reduced poverty.

Environmentally Sustainable Development

Poverty reduction is impossible in the long term if we do not consider the natural resources and the environment, on which people are dependent and build their livelihoods. Sweden works actively together with various cooperation partners to promote an environmentally sustainable development in a wide range of countries and thematic areas.

Peace and Security

Armed conflict and post-conflict situations are some of the main obstacles for development and poverty reduction in the world. Therefore, Sweden works to promote peace and security, for example through efforts that contribute to dialogue, increased security and political stability. To achieve this, Sweden collaborates with governments, a number of UN bodies and non-governmental organisations.



Fishermen repairing their nets in Vung Tau, Vietnam. Sweden, together with the EU and other donors, participated to encourage dialogue in the preparation of Vietnam's national poverty reduction plan.

How does Sweden cooperate with the world?

Swedish development cooperation is part of a global effort in which Sweden is one of many international actors. The shared goals of the international effort are the Millennium Development Goals, and the Paris Declaration, an agreement relating to how different actors should cooperate.

The Millennium Development Goals are a number of measurable and time-bound targets for reducing poverty throughout the world by 2015. World leaders agreed on these goals in September 2000. The targets provide people in both poor and rich countries with tools to articulate clear demands to their government and others who are working with development cooperation.

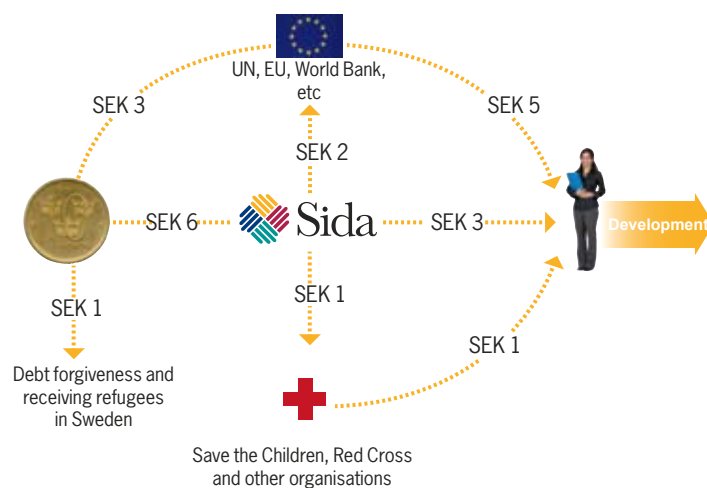
The Paris Declaration of 2005 is an agreement between donors and partner countries to make development cooperation more effective through means such as improved coordination, focus on results, and mutual responsibility and accountability for development.

Mutual responsibility

The governments of poor countries bear the ultimate responsibility for promoting development in their countries. Multilateral organisations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and the EU Commission also play important roles.

About one-third of Swedish support is channeled through United Nations funds and programmes for poverty reduction and development. Sweden also contributes to the EU, the World Bank and other regional development banks. The EU Commission and the Member States of the European Union collectively constitute the world's largest donor.

How your SEK 10 coin is spent



Sweden's total development cooperation amounts to about SEK 10 per person and day. The illustration presents a simplified picture of how this amount is divided and distributed.

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Swedish development cooperation can be either bilateral or multilateral. Bilateral support means that Sweden has direct cooperation with another country. When Sweden cooperates with many developing countries through international organisations such as the United Nations and the World Bank, it is called multilateral cooperation.

About half of Sweden's development cooperation is bilateral, with the remainder multilateral. The policy for global development favours increased multilateral development cooperation.

Bilateral cooperation is primarily coordinated by Sida, while multilateral cooperation is largely dealt with by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

How does Sweden cooperate with countries?

Sweden cooperates in various ways with different countries. In many countries, we have long-term cooperation, and maintain a direct dialogue with governments and agencies, and contribute to the development of the entire country. In other countries we work through Swedish and international organisations.

Poverty reduction

Today, Sweden maintains extensive long-term cooperation with a number of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with a focus on Africa. These countries include both those that have already developed democratically, and those that Sweden believes we can support in the process of moving towards democracy. We contribute to building up functioning public institutions and promoting democratic governance, and work with issues such as human rights, gender equality, climate change and environmental issues.

Peace and security

In countries experiencing war or political instability, Swedish development cooperation assumes other forms. We cooperate with Swedish and international organisations, and undertake targeted interventions in various areas. Peace and security is a prioritised area. Other important areas are humanitarian assistance and interventions directed toward women and children, two especially vulnerable groups in conflict situations.

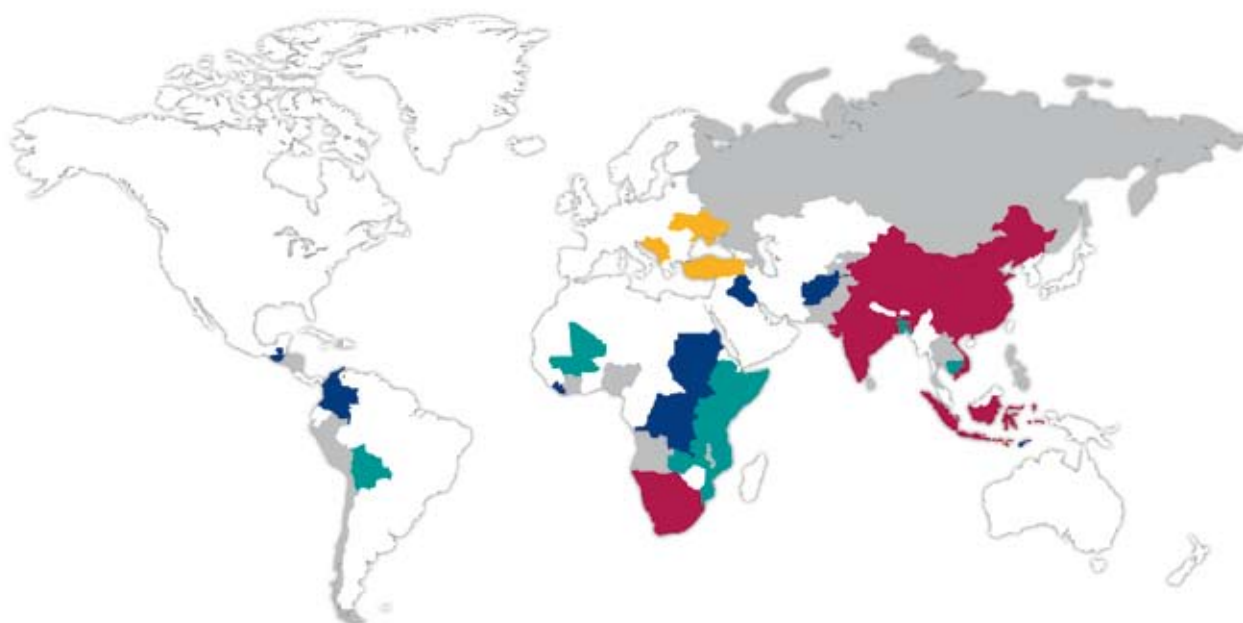
Reform cooperation in Europe

Sweden is also engaged in cooperation for reform with several countries in eastern parts of Europe. This cooperation began in connection with the disintegration of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia in 1989. The specific goal is to help strengthen democracy, promote fair and sustainable development, and bring these countries closer to the EU.

New opportunities for development

Many countries have been successful in their development so that traditional development cooperation is no longer needed. In these cases, Sweden focuses on stimulating new forms of cooperation with the private sector, organisations, agencies and cultural institutions in Sweden and other countries. In this way, we can make use of the experience and knowledge gathered during previous development cooperation.

- Countries where Sweden works with long-term development cooperation.
- Countries where Sweden works with conflict and post-conflict cooperation.
- Countries in Eastern Europe where Sweden works with reform cooperation.
- Phase-out countries where Sweden works with selective cooperation.
- Phase-out countries where long-term relations and cooperation is stimulated by means other than development cooperation.





A teacher in Bourem, Mali, makes the most of his blackboard. Investment in education has been pivotal in countries that have succeeded in their efforts to reduce poverty.

What role does Sida play in development cooperation?

Sida has three main functions. Firstly, to suggest strategies and policies for Swedish development cooperation at the request of the government, secondly to implement strategies and manage contributions, and thirdly to participate in Sweden's advocacy work and dialogue with other countries and international organisations.

Managing contributions means that Sida makes available Swedish resources to contribute to development. The choice of countries that receive resources (e.g. knowledge exchange, personnel and money) is determined by the strategies adopted by the government. It is also Sida's task to monitor the results a contribution has produced, and to check that the resources are properly used and accounted for.

A cooperation strategy is based on the partner country's own strategy for poverty reduction and its own analyses. In addition, Sida sometimes produces complementary analyses and assessments. Sida and the partner country conduct a continuing dialogue regarding the cooperation and the conditions for poverty reduction and development.

The cooperation strategy is the key

Through the cooperation strategy, the government determines the focus of Swedish support, and the ways in which Sida should monitor and evaluate the cooperation. When proposals for specific contributions are presented, Sida uses the strategy to determine whether or not the contribution should be made. Sida also evaluates how strong the correlation is between the contribution and reduction of poverty.

Cooperation with several parties

Cooperation strategies are either global, or made specifically for a region or a country. In order to realise the strategies and implement projects, Sida cooperates with many different organisations, associations, businesses, cooperatives and agencies. Fourteen Swedish non-governmental organisations have framework agreements with Sida. These organisations contribute with ten percent of the budget received from Sida. Sida also has agreements with several Swedish government agencies, which enable them to utilise their knowledge and experience for the benefit of the partner countries.

Sida also cooperates with other development cooperation agencies, and with organisations such as the EU, the UN and the World Bank. This cooperation focuses on working together effectively on site in the partner countries. Sida's role also includes participating in the work of assessing and influencing these organisations.



A group of people celebrate International Peace Day by releasing white doves as a symbol of peace. Swedish support to Afghanistan is primarily distributed through the United Nations, other international organisations, and Swedish NGOs.

The Okavango delta is one of the world's largest inland deltas, on a river that flows through Angola, Botswana and Namibia. Sida has contributed to the establishment of a regional secretariat that can plan and decide on the development of water resources for the benefit and development of all parties.

FRAME ORGANISATIONS

Forum Syd, the Olof Palme International Centre, the LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Co-operation, PMU InterLife, SHIA, the Swedish Mission Council, Africa Groups of Sweden, Diakonia, the Swedish Cooperative Centre, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Save the Children Sweden, the Church of Sweden, Plan Sweden, and the World Wide Fund for Nature.





Mother's Day in Managua, Nicaragua. A textile worker sews clothing for big foreign chains. Sweden's regional strategies for development cooperation with Latin America emphasise democracy and economic and social development as especially important areas.

Fighting corruption

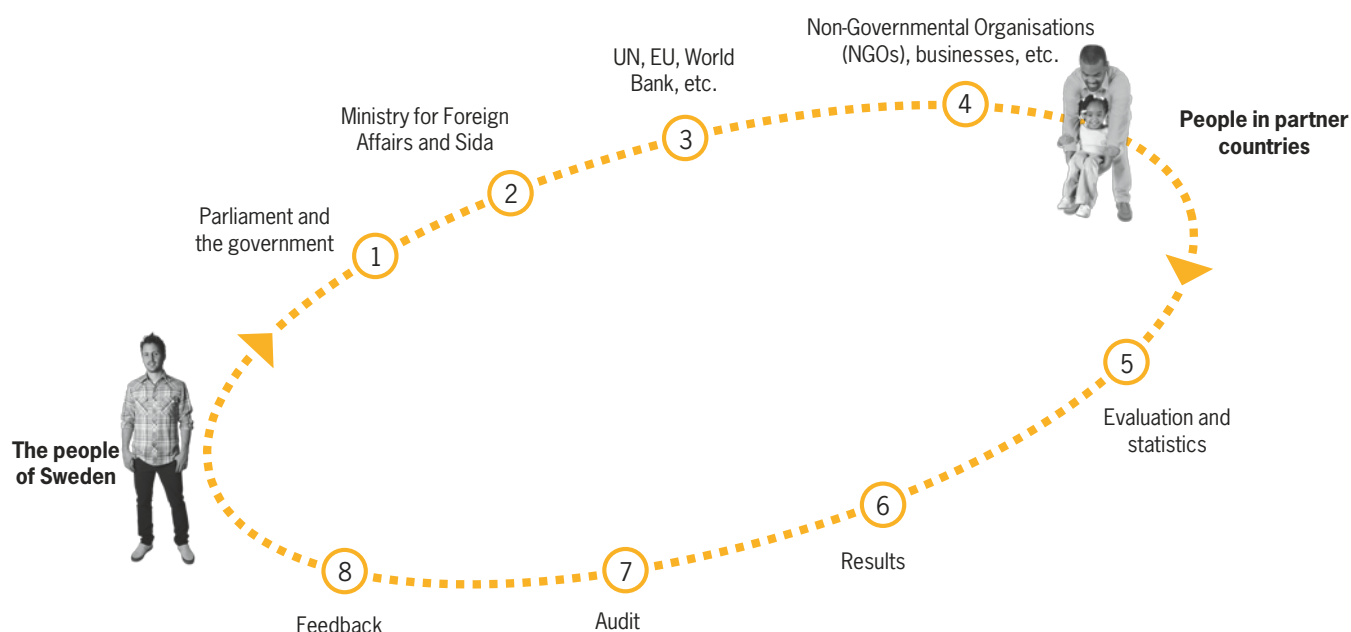
As one of the greatest threats to economic, social and democratic development, corruption is also a serious obstacle to poverty reduction. Combating corruption is therefore an important issue in a country's development.

Sweden supports several international conventions aimed at minimising the risk of corruption. Fighting corruption is also an important part of the cooperation and dialogue between Sweden and partner countries.

Sida never accepts corruption, and takes suspected incidents of corruption very seriously. If money is missing from a programme, or inadequately accounted for, Sida demands that the money is returned. While an investigation is pending, payments are suspended until appropriate measures have been taken.



The fight against corruption is an important priority. Corruption is a serious obstacle to development and aggravates poverty in many ways, as poor people suffer the most from its effects.

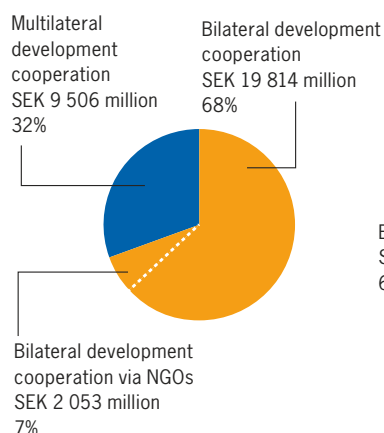


Management and reporting of results

- Sweden's popularly elected parliament and government decide the budget for development cooperation, and the countries with which Sweden should cooperate.
- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida are responsible for carrying out the Swedish development cooperation. Strategies are based on the analyses and poverty-reduction strategies of each partner country.
- Approximately half of the Swedish support is channeled through the United Nations, the EU, the World Bank and other multilateral organisations that work throughout the world. Part of this support relates to humanitarian actions in the event of natural disasters or other situations that demand short-term immediate relief.
- The rest of the Swedish support is channeled through Swedish and foreign organisations, associations, companies, cooperatives and agencies that implement Swedish development cooperation on-site in the partner countries.
- Contributions are evaluated based on statistics compiled from all parties involved (i.e. the partner country, the implementing parties and Sida). The United Nations also undertakes annual monitoring and evaluations on the global level to ensure development cooperation effectiveness.
- The results of the contributions are analysed and compared with established goals. For example, has infant mortality been reduced as planned? Has women's election turnout increased as intended? In what way has the contribution helped reduce poverty? Is the money being used in a correct way?
- Through internal audits, ongoing investigations and evaluations, Sida has systems to supervise how the money is used in various types of contributions. There are also audits and evaluations undertaken by several independent bodies, including the Swedish National Audit Office and the Swedish Agency for Development Evaluation (Sadev).
- The results and effectiveness are reported back to the government and the parliament. This affects future decisions and prioritisations relating to the Swedish development cooperation.

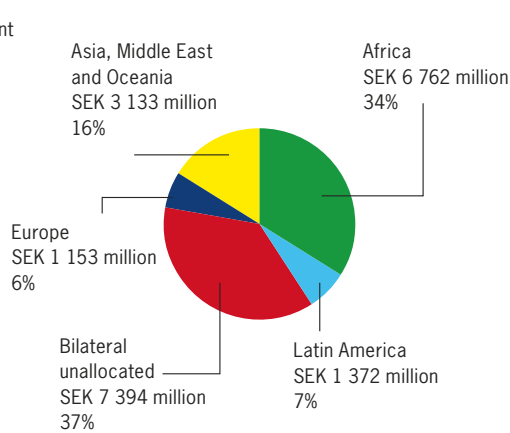
How much was disbursed for Swedish development cooperation in 2007?

Total development cooperation



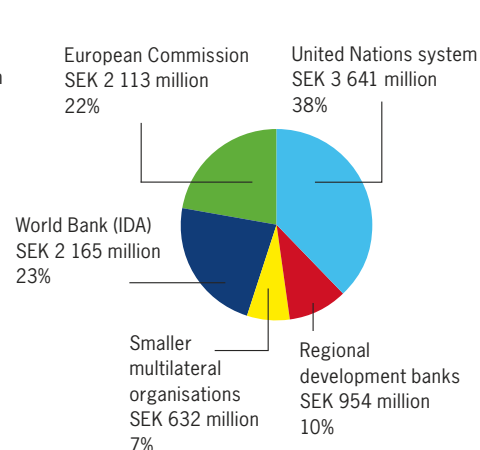
Total: SEK 29,320 million

Bilateral development cooperation



Total: SEK 19,814 million

Multilateral development cooperation



Total: SEK 9,506 million

Do you want to work with development cooperation?

There are many opportunities to work with Swedish development cooperation, such as through the Foreign Service, Sida, the Swedish private sector, trade unions, and for a wide range of Swedish NGOs.

Employment

Positions in the Foreign Service and Sida generally require an academic degree and several years of work experience. These positions are advertised accordingly. Sida and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs also recruit personnel for positions in multilateral organisations, such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union.

Many Swedish NGOs recruit or hire personnel in various professions and occupations, such as teachers and healthcare personnel, to work as volunteers in developing countries.

Swedish companies are also involved in different ways in international development cooperation.

Education

Today, there are also many educational programmes that emphasise assistance and international development issues. The Information Service of the Folk High

Schools (residential colleges for adults) can provide information about courses with an international focus.

Sida works together with universities and colleges through the Minor Field Studies (MFS) scholarship programme, which gives students an opportunity to conduct a field study in a developing country as a basis for a paper or independent study project at a higher academic level.

Youth volunteers

There are both Swedish and foreign organisations that arrange volunteer work for young people. The Swedish branch of Service Civil International (IAL), Individuell Människohjälp (IM), and Intercultural Programmes (AFS) are a few of these. The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange (CIU) administers exchange programmes for young people. These programmes are open to all.

A doctor at the Chimoio Provincial Hospital in Manica, Mozambique reading patient charts in the hospital archives. Sweden supports the implementation of Mozambique's poverty reduction strategy.



Sida works according to directives of the Swedish Parliament and Government to reduce poverty in the world, a task that requires cooperation and persistence. Through development cooperation, Sweden assists countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Each country is responsible for its own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge, skills and expertise. This increases the world's prosperity.

Do you want to know more?

Visit www.sida.se to find more information about Sida and Swedish development cooperation.

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