

Development Cooperation Sweden and Kenya

Thematic priorities guide Swedish development cooperation



THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS DEFINED THREE PRIORITIES FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION – DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS GENDER AND WOMEN'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT.

Both dialogue and cooperation areas in Kenya are focused on the Swedish Government's three thematic priorities for development cooperation.

- Sweden's strong orientation towards democracy and human rights finds expression through dialogue, mainstreaming and direct support.
- Swedish support also focuses on women's participation in the planning and designing of initiatives in all sectors. Substantial support is also extended to projects aimed at increasing women's political participation.
- Cooperation in the environmental sphere is aimed at improving the management of natural resource utilization, an area that will become even more important as the impacts of climate change intensify.

Gender equality enhances development

Gender inequality undermines development and governance. Opportunities for changing and challenging the structure of governance in Kenya, as well as the practices and policies that aggravate feminised poverty and inequalities must be addressed. Sweden supports gender equality issues directly through civil society, mainstreaming

of gender issues in all sector programmes and through dialogue with different partners.

Attaining equality between women and men, manifested in their rights and roles in society, is a question of rights. Experience clearly proves that social and economic growth greatly benefits from women's participation on equal terms in development.

In all programmes that Sweden supports, gender analyses are made from the planning stages, through implementation and evaluation. Experiences in the agricultural extension programme (NALEP) showed that women were generally poorer, had restricted property rights and decision power, received less extension support and had a heavier labour burden. In response, targeted interventions were included in the implementation. Assessments show positive impacts on women's access to and control over productive resources, strengthened participation in commercial enterprises, and improved extension services.

Sweden has further actively raised, women's equal rights during the preparation of Kenya's new constitution and the formulation of the land policy. Evidence shows that only five per cent of land holders are women, while they contribute most of the labour.

In the road programme women were guaranteed a certain percentages



Photo: Per-Ulf Nilsson

Social Protection initiatives promote child protection and gender equality.

of the job opportunities. At least 30 per cent of road contractors, trained and assisted to start construction work, were to be women. Likewise in the urban programme, vulnerable households, which are often headed by women, are targeted and women's participation in decision making emphasized.



The land reform process promotes productive use of land to combat poverty.

Democracy and Human Rights

Approximately 30 per cent of the Swedish support to Kenya is directed to the area of democracy and human rights. The progress of the sector, including implementation of crucial reforms, is central to the success of Kenyan development in general. A key element in the Swedish country strategy for Kenya is to support the agreement on how to address the underlying causes to the post election violence, the so called Agenda 4. Support is given specifically to the general consolidation of the agreement (developed through assistance from the African Union), development of a new constitution and to land reform. Forms for supporting the establishment of a truth, justice and reconciliation commission as well as implementation of police and electoral reforms are still being developed.

In addition, Sweden supports crucial reforms towards democratic and efficient governance that counteracts corruption, institutional development and reform in the governance, justice and legal sector, improved public financial management and public sector reform. Social protection with emphasis on child protection as well as gender equality including women's

political participation and measures to combat gender based violence are other important areas for Swedish support.

Support to democracy and human rights is further extended both through direct support and support through civil society to demand, advocate for and show-case good models for reform. For support to the governance, justice and legal sector, as well as the underlying causes, a special funding facility for non state actors has been established. Ways of supporting the demand side of public financial management and public sector reform is further being looked into.

Finally, the issues of democracy and human rights, including gender, are being mainstreamed in all programmes, in order to improve participation of the people in their own development.

Mitigation and adaptation to climate change is needed

60 per cent of Swedish aid supports programmes in the areas of agriculture, water resources, land reform and the environment. All these may be seen as adaptation and mitigation measures in face of climatic changes, which are already affecting Kenya negatively.

In its strategy for development cooperation, Sweden writes *"Sustainable management of natural resources must be mainstreamed in the water and roads sectors and particularly in the agricultural sector. The feasibility of direct support for specific environmental protection initiatives must be explored."*

The environmental, as well as the water programme, aim at strengthening Kenya's capacity to sustainably manage its natural resources. Legal and institutional reforms are supported, training and capacity building funded. In both programmes there are important civil society participation components, through the funding of projects for environmental protection and water use. A Natural Resources Facility Fund is in the making. This will also strengthen civil society's participation in national debates and advocacy work.

The land reform process in Kenya has received Swedish support. This will, inter alia, reform the administration of land and land use planning, improve the productive use of land, address land tenure issues and result in the protection of natural resources. One of Sweden's contributions is a Swedish - Kenyan partnership on a modern Land information and management system.

Climate change is an international concern and Sweden strives for the international community, and in particular the richer countries, to agree on ways to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and support developing countries' adaptation measures. The various mechanisms, i.e. the Clean Development Mechanism and carbon markets, need to be structured, funded and developed in ways that secure poorer countries' right to development, while mitigating climate change.

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