



Education

Education as a public good, a fundamental human right and a key to achieving poverty eradication

Education plays a fundamental role in human, social and economic development. Sweden has a specific objective to improve access to quality education with a focus on gender equality, inclusive education, improved literacy and numeracy, strengthened national public education systems. Sida's total support to education amounted to SEK 551 million in 2015.¹



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Sida's support to education derives from a holistic approach to education systems, including the importance of good quality pre-service teacher training and further in service training, and promotes access to good quality learning at all levels of education and throughout people's lives. The focus lies on:

- strengthening capacity for *quality education*, and on
- promoting *equal rights* to education and learning.

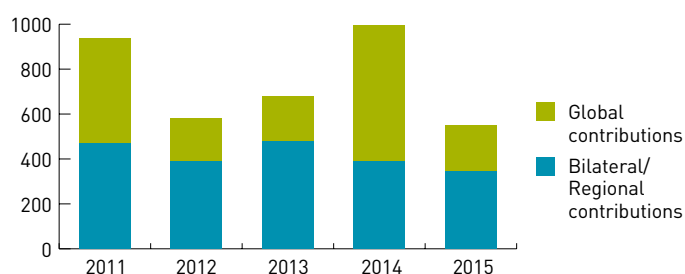
Equity and inclusion is emphasized, focusing on quality learning outcomes, within a lifelong learning approach. Education is a human right and Sida supports a sharper attention to children's absolute right to education and actions to safeguard this critical human right. This includes enhanced efforts to make schools safe havens for children; to ensure girls can remain in school throughout their pregnancy and return after giving birth; as well as other efforts to ensure equal rights for all girls and boys in school.

Investments in good quality education, especially in the education of girls, are of fundamental importance for poverty reduction and long-term sustainable development. Education is also a key to building a democratic society and promoting equity and gender equality.

Sweden promotes country-level processes and strongly advocates for an emphasis on national ownership and support to local education groups and other stakeholders engaged in the education sector. This is done in a number of countries, for example Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Rwanda and Tanzania.

To complement the bilateral support, Sida is supporting education at the global level through multilateral initiatives, such as UNESCO institutes and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and. Sweden is the Grant Agent for GPE in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

SIDA'S DISBURSEMENT TO EDUCATION 2011-2015 (MSEK)



¹ General budget support and education related to specific sectors, e.g. Trade, Energy, Water and Sanitation, Health, Democracy and Human Rights, not included.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone - and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida's main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.



Results

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

More children are in school around the world than ever before. There is also an increased attention to pre-primary education, secondary education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and higher education. Providing young people with relevant skills that lead to decent jobs is emphasized and there is a growing concern for competencies for work, life and citizenship. However, at the global level children with disabilities are disproportionately represented among out-of-school children. Girls are still less likely than boys to be enrolled in primary and secondary school in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab States, but enjoy relatively gender parity at those levels of education in all other regions. Humanitarian emergencies and protracted crisis disrupted the education of more than 80 million children aged 3-18 in 35 countries in 2015. Aid to education continues to be stuck at a level far below what is needed and aid to basic education is not sufficiently targeted to countries most in need.

SWEDISH SUPPORT

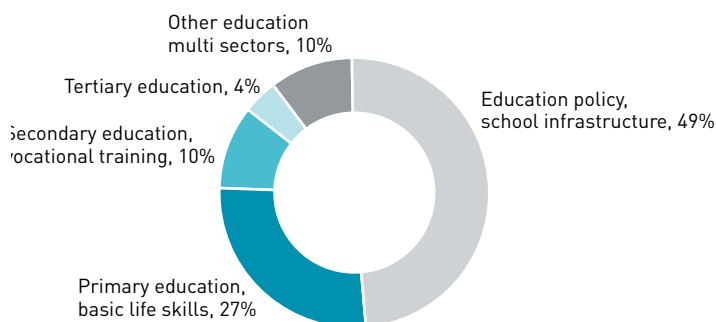
In countries such as Bangladesh and Cambodia Sida's support to education is targeted to both the state and civil society organizations. In Tanzania, support to education is channeled through general budget support. In conflict and post-conflict countries, for example in Afghanistan, cooperation with multilateral actors such as UNICEF and UNESCO crucial. National ownership is central to all efforts in education, with the ambition to relate the Swedish contributions to national policies, plans and programs and to align support to education from other donors to.

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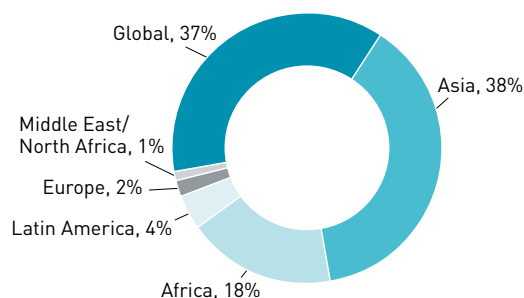
Story of change

Literacy rate for women in Afghanistan is among the lowest in the world – around 18 percent. Improved access to primary education of good quality is a fundamental focus for Sida. Around three percent of the girls used to go to school, today around 39 percent have access to primary education. To further improve the number of girls in education it is important to train more female teachers as they have a positive effect on girls' possibilities to attend school.

SIDA'S DISBURSEMENT TO EDUCATION PER SUBSECTOR 2015 (MSEK)



SIDA'S DISBURSEMENT TO EDUCATION PER REGION 2015 (MSEK)



Sweden supports the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), a global fund and a partnership focused entirely on education in developing countries. **In Cambodia, 13,500 children aged 3-5 were reached by early childhood education services in 2015 thanks to GPE and other partners' funding.**

Since 2001, the number of teachers have increased from 20 000 to 188 000 (year 2014). Of them 31 percent are female.



"I am happy that I could continue to go school while training to become a tailor."

Sabina Akhter from Bangladesh risked being sold as a maid at the age of 12.