



Water and Sanitation

Improving the human right to
safe water and sanitation

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is crucial, not only for people's health and wellbeing, but also for poverty reduction and economic development. Sweden promotes efficient, fair and sustainable water use and management as well as improved access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene facilities. Sida's financial support to the water and sanitation sector amounted to approximately SEK 775 million in 2016, accounting for approximately four per cent of Sida's total disbursements that year.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Universal access to safe drinking water and sustainable sanitation are essential for human survival, health and dignity. Careful management of increasingly scarce water resources is vital to ensure environmental safety and sustainable development in an increasingly volatile climate. Sida's support is grounded in the fact that safe water and sanitation are essential to the realisation of all human rights. Within the programmes supported, the application of a pro-poor and rights-based approach has continued to receive special focus during 2016.

Sida's support to the water sector focuses on two main areas:

- Water supply, sanitation, hygiene and waste management
- Water resources management.

Sida's work with water supply, sanitation and hygiene, aims primarily at improving direct access to services for poor unserved people and by promoting more democratic and effective institutions. Support to waste management concentrates on setting up municipal services based on principles such as prevention, re-use, recycling and environmentally safe disposal. Sida's support to water resources management focuses on establishing sustainable, equitable, participative and accountable management systems.

Since most of the world's water resources are shared by two or more countries, conflict prevention and cooperation are essential in Sida's work within the sector. The worsening impact of climate change and recurrent water-related disasters make risk reduction, adaptation and enhancing resilience critical and integrated aspects of the water and sanitation portfolio. The lack of improved water and sanitation facilities is especially detrimental for children's lives and development. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF, close to 1000 children under five years of age die every day from diarrheal diseases, which are often linked to the lack of access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Stunting is another harmful effect of open defecation (OD) and faecal matter in the close environment that affects children's growth. Apart from stunting, it also affects their cognitive abilities in a negative way and impairs their start in life. Having an inclusive approach in the design of programme support is of utmost importance to Sida. For this, Sida uses an inclusive human rights-based approach in the assessment of programme support to make sure that the needs of marginalised and vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, are addressed. Examples within water and sanitation programmes include, among other, ensuring that access to information and communication is inclusive, using visual aids for people with hearing impairments, or constructing ramps for wheel-chair accessibility.

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

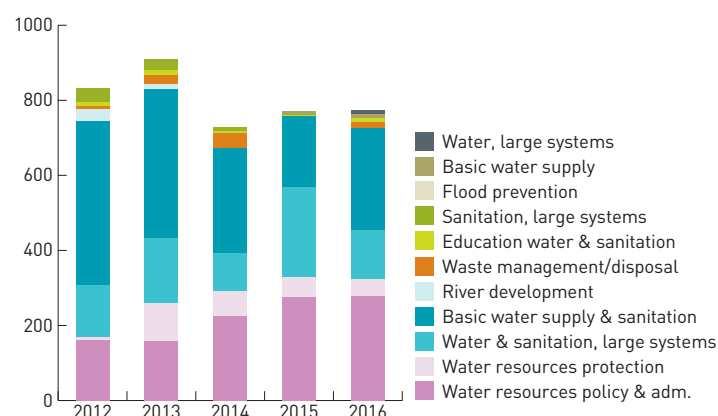
DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

Since 1990, millions of people around the world have gained access to basic drinking water and sanitation services. However, while great progress has been made in the water and sanitation sector, the latest report by the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) highlights that significant challenges remain. Although the millennium development goal on halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water was met in 2010; in 2015, 2.1 billion people were still without access to safely managed drinking water services and 4.5 billion people were still lacking safely managed sanitation facilities. Moreover, approximately 892 million still practise open defecation (JMP, 2017). This has extensive health, environmental, social, financial, and other implications for achieving objectives for sustainable development.

SWEDISH SUPPORT

Approximately sixty per cent of Sida's overall support to water and sanitation is distributed through global organisations. Sida's support to organisations such as the World Bank Water Global Practice – Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership (GWSP); UNICEF WASH; WaterAid; the Water Supply Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and its Global Sanitation Fund reflect Sweden's strong commitment to joint global efforts for achieving universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as well as reduced child mortality and improved maternal health. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is another important focus area within Sida's support to WASH programmes. This focus is manifested through support to organisations specialising in MHM and WASH for school programmes that ensure that schools include access to adequate, child friendly and gender sensitive WASH facilities, as well as hygiene education for boys and girls. Sida also provides

SIDA'S DISBURSEMENT TO WATER AND SANITATION 2012–2016 (MSEK)



important financial support to global organisations working within Water Resources Management, Transboundary Water Management and Water Governance as well as with overall water supply provision and infrastructure. UN-Water, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Water Integrity Network (WIN), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), 2013 Water Resources Group (WRG), World Resources Institute (WRI), and many other global, bilateral and regional organisations are among our important partners in this area.



Up until 2015, Sida partners have provided access to **safe clean water for 66.1 million people** in addition to 6.5 million people in critical humanitarian areas. Sida partners have also provided access to **improved sanitation for 5.5 million people** out of which Sida specifically supported access to approximately 880 000 individuals.

STORY OF CHANGE

The WaterAid programme "Promoting Environmental Health for the Urban Poor" (PEHUP) in Bangladesh has sought to improve access to safe water, sanitation and better hygiene practices for 300 000 poor and marginalized groups in informal settlements and low-income communities. Through support by Sida and local NGOs, hundreds of young students now have significantly greater access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) facilities at school and

thousands of informal settlement inhabitants now receive direct access to safe water, thereby reducing the prevalence of diseases and risk of contamination. For instance, as a result of PEHUP-organised advocacy to local authorities and support from local NGO Dustho Sastho Kendra (DSK), women in a local informal settlement around the hilly area of Chittagong are no longer forced to walk 1-2 km to collect water. With the installation of one deep tube well, six water points, six water connections and thirty-six reservoir supply lines, they now have access to safe water at their doorstep.