



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 840 million in 2017, accounting for approximately four percent 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, and contributions are characterized by poor peoples' perspectives on development and the rights perspective, as stated in the Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid. The three thematic perspectives: Conflict, Gender Equality and Environment and Climate are also integrated in the water and sanitation programs.

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

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

Sida's work with provision and access to safe 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. A special focus of the Sida support has been on programs aiming at strengthening the "enabling environment" among various stakeholders.

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. Lack of improved water and sanitation facilities is especially detrimental for children. According to the WHO and UNICEF, in 2016 close to 1000 children under five years of age died every day due to diarrheal diseases, these deaths are often linked to the lack of access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Notably, the numbers have decreased and is one third compared to the year 2000.

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, minorities and poor are addressed. It includes ensuring that access to information and communication is inclusive, using visual aids for people with hearing impairments, or constructing ramps for wheelchair 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

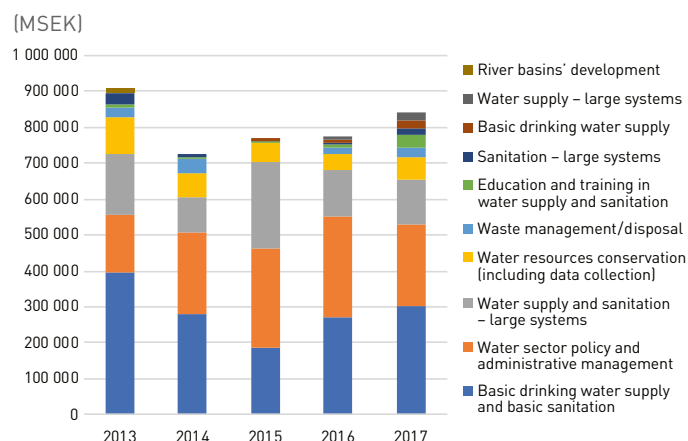
Since 1990, 2.6 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water sources, but 633 million are still without. However, while great progress has been made in the water and sanitation sector, the latest report by the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) highlights that significant challenges remain. Global Goal 6 states that by 2030 universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water should be achieved for all. Although we face progress, the investments required to reach the objectives of Global Goal 6 are tremendous, and especially as water scarcity affects 40% of the world's population and it is projected to rise. Today we also know that at least 2.4 billion people still lack basic sanitation services and that most countries in Africa have less than 50% coverage with basic handwashing facilities. Approximately 892 million people still practise open defecation (JMP, 2017). This reality has extensive

SWEDISH SUPPORT

Approximately fifty percent of Sida's overall support to water and sanitation programs is distributed through multilateral 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 towards reduced child mortality and improved maternal health. In 2017 approx. 90% of all contributions within water and sanitation programs had gender as a significant or principle objective. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is an important focus area within Sida's support to WASH programmes. This focus is manifested through support to

health, environmental, social, financial, and other implications for achieving objectives for sustainable development.

SIDA'S DISBURSEMENT TO WATER AND SANITATION 2013–2017



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. UNICEF has for example a project that by funding from Sida supports MHM in over 1000 schools around the world. Sida also provides 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.

STORY OF CHANGE

Water shortage and the lack of waste water treatment is a tremendous problem in Bolivia where only 11% of the waste water in the country is treated for reuse. In recent years, due to recurring extreme climate variations, people who live in high plateaus and valleys have faced severe water scarcity. The waste water treatment plant in Villa El Carmen has been constructed by the local organisation "Agua Tuya" with support from Sida. The treatment plant uses Swedish technology that aims at greater efficiency by filtering and distilling the drain water from the village which is then used for irrigation by local farmers. This has resulted in healthier

crops and has also led to farmers getting more profits for their yields. Based on these positive results, the model will be scaled-up and applied in other villages. Furthermore, the construction of the first sludge-treatment plant in Bolivia, which will aim to improve waste water treatment processes and to produce biological fertilizers, is currently being planned.



Francisca Villca Bonifacio is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the waste water treatment plant in Villa El Carmen, Bolivia.

Photo: Paul Andia