



Sweden's and Sida's Partnership with the EU

The EU Member States and the EU institutions contribute to more than half of the world's development assistance and are thereby collectively the largest donor in the world. Under the EU's current budgetary framework 2014–2020, the EU Commission will distribute a total aid budget of approximately EUR 96.5 billion to various thematic and geographic programmes, including humanitarian aid.



THE SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU

In 2017, Sweden contributed around SEK 2.4 billion to EU's development cooperation budget. Sweden supports EU development cooperation and humanitarian assistance through both its annual fee and by separate contributions to the European Development Fund (EDF).

In addition, Sweden allocated SEK 28 million to EU's regional fund for the Syria crisis (the Madad Fund) and SEK 28 million to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTFa, or the Valletta Fund).

JUNIOR PROFESSIONALS IN EU DELEGATIONS (JPD) AND NATIONAL EXPERTS PROGRAMMES

The JPD programme funded by Sida and introduced in 2014, has continued to grow and further develop. Sida's programme for National Experts has also increased. The programmes contribute to the Swedish resource base in the field of EU development cooperation and provide expertise to EU institutions. The JPD programme also provides an opportunity for young Swedish professionals to start a career in the EU.

EU POLICY AND FUNDING

The EU provides development assistance through geographical as well as thematic financial instruments with a strong focus on poverty eradication. The Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) is the largest geographical instrument, with a total budget of EUR 23 billion. The geographical instruments also include EU's programme for support to countries in EU's neighbourhood (Eastern Europe and South Mediterranean countries), called the European Neighbourhood

Instrument (ENI), and the programme for the enlargement area (Western Balkans and Turkey), called the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA). The European Development Fund (EDF), which is outside of the EU budget, is focused on 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region. In 2000, the countries of these regions signed an agreement with the EU, the Cotonou Agreement, for partnership on aid and trade. The agreement is valid until 2020. Discussions on what kind of arrangement will supersede it has been initiated.

For the next EU budget cycle (2021–2027), the Commission is proposing a new, single, financial development cooperation instrument, called the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). The humanitarian aid is outside of this proposed instrument. The proposal is currently being negotiated in Brussels.

EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON DEVELOPMENT

The overarching policy for EU development cooperation is defined in the new European Consensus on Development, signed by the EU and Member States in June 2017. The Consensus aligns the Union's development policy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The purpose of EU's development policy and sectoral policies is to reduce poverty in the world, to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to promote democracy, the rule of law, good governance and the respect of human rights. The purpose is also to increase the benefit of aid through improved coordination between EU's Member States and EU institutions, including the Commission, the External Action Services and EU Delegations.

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.



Cooperation

IMPLEMENTING DIRECTORATES

EU's development cooperation is managed by two Directorates. The Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) is responsible for programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) is responsible for assistance provided in Europe's Eastern and Southern neighbourhood, with a focus on reforms and democratic consolidation. Humanitarian assistance is managed by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).

JOINT PROGRAMMING

The Lisbon Treaty foresees more joint cooperation between the EU and its Member States and a "whole of Europe" approach, including on development policy. Joint Programming is one of the key aid effectiveness commitments of the EU and its Member States and is enshrined in the new European Consensus for Development. Joint Programming aims at improving coherence and coordination of EU support to partner countries in order to provide a more effective and impactful contribution to achieving the goals of Agenda 2030. It includes a joint analysis of partner countries' situation followed by a joint response setting out how EU development partners will provide support and measure progress. Joint Programming is suggested to be the preferred approach to EU programming under the proposed new development cooperation instrument, NDICI.

SWEDISH PARTICIPATION

Sweden participates, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), in multiple EU committees and expert groups linked to development cooperation. A key group for policy development is the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV). The MFA and Sida participates in expert groups that coincide with Swedish thematic and policy priorities.

Since 2015, Sida is a member of the European Practitioners Network, a network based in Brussels consisting of development cooperation agencies from 16 EU Member States. The purpose of the network is to improve aid effectiveness and pave the way for closer cooperation between Member States and the EU.

In March 2019, Sweden and the EU Commission held their first bilateral High-Level Dialogue on Development Cooperation. The meeting identified new opportunities for strengthening the EU-Swedish partnership, i.e. through Joint Programming at country level.



Photo: Sida

March 2019, when the first bilateral High-Level Dialogue meeting between Sweden and the EU Commission was held in Brussels.

SWEDEN AND EU COOPERATION

Sida is currently implementing programmes with funding from the EU under delegated agreements in countries in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. In some cases, Sida has also delegated funding to the EU through so called transfer agreements.

Examples

1. Delegation from Sida to the EU – Marine Partnership

The Pacific European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP) is an extensive multi-sectoral programme that supports sound ocean and coastal governance, with a focus on biodiversity protection and the sustainable use of fisheries and other marine resources. Gender and Human Rights Based Approaches are integrated across the programme in 15 Pacific states in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (PACPs). The EUR 45 million PEUMP programme is financed by the EU (EUR 35 million) and Sida (EUR 10 million). The delegated agreement with the European Commission is managed by the EU Delegation in Suva, Fiji. The programme will run from the 1 July 2018 until the 31 March 2023. Among various issues, the Programme focuses on gaps in fisheries science and illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing.

2. Delegation to Sida from the EU – Cambodia

Since 2016, the EU and Sida are working jointly to strengthen transparency, accountability and anti-corruption in Cambodia through the programme Partnership for Accountability and Transparency (PAT). The EU has delegated EUR 7 million to Sida for the programme and Sida is contributing with SEK 32 million. The PAT programme complements EU's sector budget support to Cambodia's public financial management reform by strengthening the institutions responsible for taxes, statistics, external audit and parliamentary research through involvement of relevant Swedish government agencies. The programme has been highly successful and important results have already been achieved. Currently partners are involved in preparing for a second phase of the PAT program which will begin in January 2020.