



Migration and development

Migration involves both opportunities and challenges for global development. More people migrate today than before, voluntarily and involuntarily, internally and internationally. The links between migration and development are complex. Migration can be driven by a lack of development opportunities. Development can spur migration and migration can contribute to development. Many of the world's refugees and migrants live in high levels of poverty and lack fulfillment of basic human rights. Migrants and refugees are often left outside national and local development plans and rarely included in development initiatives.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Sida's work is largely carried out in conflict and post-conflict countries or fragile states where forced displacement and irregular migration is extensive. Labor migration is also significant in many of Sida's partner countries. Sida integrates migration where it is relevant for implementing specific cooperation strategies.

Sida has a limited volume of specific support in the area of migration. In addition, humanitarian aid provides support for protection and life-saving measures for refugees and internally displaced persons.

SIDA'S APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Sida's main task is to create conditions for people living in poverty and oppression to improve their living conditions, which includes migrants and refugees where they are among the poorest. Sida applies a broad definition of migration which includes forced and voluntary migration.

Reduce the root causes of forced displacement

A large part of Swedish development cooperation contributes indirectly to reduce the root causes of forced displacement. Improved living conditions in countries of origin provide alternatives to migration due to hunger, poverty, access to rights or other vulnerabilities. Synergies between humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation

is key, for example, to strengthen the resilience of societies and to reduce the risk of humanitarian crises recurring or becoming protracted. Sida's bilateral cooperation has increased the focus on synergies with humanitarian assistance to support refugee-hosting communities.

Positive effects of migration on development

Supporting and strengthening the positive effects of migration on sustainable development, both for migrants and for developing countries, is one of the aims of Swedish development cooperation. Support to durable solutions for refugees provides both development effects for the country of origin and the host country and can reduce tensions between refugees and host societies. Enhancing the opportunities for migrants and refugees to be economic actors, for example by access to livelihoods, financial inclusion, and decent work, creates positive effects on economic development, both at individual and society level.

Support to durable solutions for refugees is a growing area in Sida's strategy implementation. Measures that create employment for migrants, refugees and local populations have been funded, for example through the International Labor Organization (ILO), to enable work permits for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Migrants contribute to the development of their countries of origin, for example by sending remittances (financial →

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

transfers to family members), by investing in and/or establishing companies in their home region. The diaspora is increasingly seen as development actors. For example, Sida supports the Swedish-Somali diaspora to invest in companies and thereby create jobs in Somalia.

Migrants' human rights

Human rights are universal. Refugees have particular rights according to the Refugee convention. To achieve the sustainable development goals, the rights of migrants need to be included in local and national development initiatives. Migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons can for several reasons be in a vulnerable situation. Limited access to education, social security, and health affects many who flee or migrate. Discrimination, violence, exploitation and human trafficking are commonplace. Sida is working to strengthen the human rights of migrants and refugees regardless of legal status and reasons for migration. Specifically, this means to prevent exploitation and human trafficking, and to enable inclusion in development efforts according to the global sustainable development goals.

Safe, orderly and regulated migration

Many people migrate for social or economic reasons. Safe, orderly and regulated migration can have positive effects on sustainable development both for migrants, their families, for the countries of origin and for receiving countries and communities. Development cooperation can contribute to strengthening the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to manage migration in a way that ensures the rights of refugees and migrants. A well-functioning management of migration and asylum is important for a country's development and to counteract the negative development effects that may result from irregular and forced migration. In addition, support for countries' capacity to manage and plan for safe, orderly and regulated migration can provide the opportunity to optimize the positive development outcomes of migration. Migration management is an emerging area of work for Sida.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

Migration is described as a megatrend that affects global development. More than 258 million people are estimated by the UN to be international migrants today. The largest migration takes place within and between developing countries. According to the UN, over 70 million people are forcibly displaced and of these, over 40 million are internally displaced. Half of them are children and particularly vulnerable. The reasons why people flee and migrate are complex and multifaceted. Root causes are usually a combination of factors such as conflict, poverty, weak political governance, limited natural resources, climate change and human rights violations. The majority of the world's refugees are received by neighboring developing countries (80 per cent). Refugee situations tend to be increasingly protracted and most last over five years, some over 20 years. To achieve the global sustainable development goals, migrants and refugees must also be included and not left behind.

SWEDISH SUPPORT

Sida mainly integrates migration where it is relevant for implementing specific development cooperation strategies. In addition, Sida has a limited volume of specific support to the area of migration. OECD/DAC introduced a new sector code in 2018 for Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility. In total Sida disbursed 107 MSEK towards this specific sector code in 2018. 70% was distributed through multilaterals, 26% through NGOs and 4% through public sector institutions. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution for the migration sector code.

TABLE 1: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION 2018, TSEK

