



Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

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, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Sida's financial support to the water and sanitation sector was approximately SEK 1 240 million in 2018, accounting for approximately five 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. This approach involves giving visibility to individuals and groups who are discriminated against, excluded or marginalised. This is to ensure that all individuals can enjoy their rights, regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, religion or other belief. The three thematic perspectives: Conflict, Gender Equality and Environment and Climate are also integrated in the water and sanitation programmes.

Sida's support to the water sector focuses on safe drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as well as support to water sector policy and administrative management. Sida also supports water resources conservation and rehabilitation of waters and prevention of water contamination.

Sida's work with provision and access to water and sanitation, aims primarily at improving direct access to

services for poor unserved people and by promoting more democratic and effective institutions.

Support to water sector policy and administrative management focus on work within legislation, planning and management as well as transboundary management of water; institutional capacity development and activities supporting the Integrated Water Resource Management approach. A special focus of the Sida support has been on programmes aiming at strengthening an "enabling environment" among various stakeholders.

Since most of the world's water resources are shared by two or more countries, conflict prevention and cooperation is 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.

Sida also supports improved access to WASH in schools and healthcare facilities. The UN Secretary General launched a Call to Action in 2018 that recognizes the need to ensure universal and sustainable access to safe WASH in health care facilities. Without basic WASH, health care facilities can instead contribute to more infections, prolonged hospital stays and preventable deaths, including of mothers and babies. In 2016 21% of the health care facilities had no sanitation service. (JMP Healthcare Facilities 2019).

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

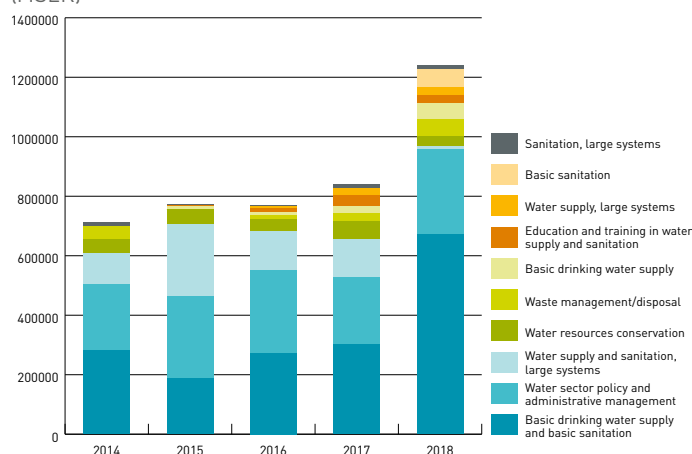
Since 2000 1.8 billion people have gained access to basic water services and 2.1 billion people gained access to at least basic sanitation services. In 2017 5.3 billion people used safely managed water services but 2.2 billion were still without. However, while great progress has been made in the water and sanitation sector, the latest report by the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP for Households 2019) highlights that significant challenges remain. Global Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda 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 massive. To end open defecation (OD) has been identified as a top priority for reducing global inequalities in WASH. Since 2000 the global rate of OD has decreased from 21% to 9% 673 million still practising it. (JMP for Households, 2019). This reality has extensive

SWEDISH SUPPORT

Sida has global regional and bilateral cooperation within the water sector. Approx. 70% of Sida's overall support to water and sanitation programmes is distributed through multilateral organisations, Sida's global support to organisations such as the World Bank Water Global Practice; Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership; UNICEF WASH; WaterAid; the Water Supply Sanitation Collaborative Council and its Global Sanitation Fund reflects Sweden's strong commitment to joint global efforts for achieving universal access to WASH, as well as towards reduced child mortality and improved maternal health. In 2018 approx. 90% of all contributions within water and sanitation programs had gender as a principal or significant objective. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is an important focus area within Sida's support to WASH programmes. This focus is manifested through support to organisations specialising

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

SIDA'S DISBURSEMENT TO WATER AND SANITATION 2014–2018 (MSEK)



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. The "Grand Coalition on MHM" were created by several UN agencies and the civil society with support by Sida and has provided over 10 000 women and girls in Kenya with relevant information regarding MHM. 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, Water Integrity Network, Stockholm Environment Institute, Global Water Partnership, World Resources Institute, and many other global, bilateral and regional organisations are among our important partners in this area.

STORY OF CHANGE

Margaret Among is 45 years old and a single mother of four children. She lives in Bobol Village in Uganda. Since her childhood she has never used a latrine, Margaret cannot squat due to her physical disability, only sit. She grew up defecating in the bush because latrines in her community did not have anywhere where she could sit while defecating. "As a mature person, going in the bush is very shameful. I always had to look around to see if there was anyone seeing me."

Four years ago, WaterAid and a local partner supported by Sida started working in Bobol Village teaching how to use

local materials to make sanitation facilities accessible to people with disabilities. Several community meetings were held focused on accessible water, sanitation and hygiene services. Now Margaret has her own latrine and can ride the wheelchair and enter with ease to use the latrine.



"Ever since I stopped defecating in the open I feel my dignity has been restored" says Margaret

Photo: WaterAid and James Kiyimba

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