

Development Cooperation of Sweden

Development policies

The overall objective of Swedish development policy is to support equitable and sustainable global development and to create conditions that will enable poor people to improve their lives. Equitable global development means respect for human rights and democracy, and is achieved by means of economic growth that leads to reduced poverty. Sustainable global development means that resources are to be used in a manner that is effective in the long term and ensures that the needs of the present generation are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This includes a forward-looking and sustainable use of common resources, transparency, greater openness and a development process that takes account of social, economic and environmental effects. Swedish development aid is often channeled through international organisations such as the UN and the EU.

Priority countries

In 2007 Sweden decreased its number of partner countries for development cooperation to be more effective in the development cooperation work.

- Africa (more focus on poverty, regional cooperation on management of regional resources)
- Asia (more focus on population and living condition)
- Eastern Europe (poverty, economy, climate change and cross-border cooperation)
- Latin America (poverty, discrimination)

Priority areas

The priority areas for Swedish development cooperation include the following:

- Democracy, human rights and freedom of expression
- Gender equality
- Environment and climate
- Health
- Market development
- Agriculture and food security
- Education
- Sustainable societal development
- Conflict, peace and security
- Humanitarian aid

Coordination and implementation

Swedish development policy is coordinated by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the governmental agency responsible for the bilateral programme of Swedish development cooperation, is in charge of implementing the programmes and projects. Sweden cooperates with and supports many multilateral organizations, in particular the United Nations, multilateral development banks such as the World Bank, and the EU. Up to half of Swedish development assistance currently goes to multilateral organizations, and in several cases Sweden is one of the largest donors.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.sida.se/English/>

<http://www.government.se/government-of-sweden/ministry-for-foreign-affairs/>