



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 collectively the largest provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds 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 thematic and geographic programmes, including humanitarian aid. Efforts are made to help partner countries respond to the COVID-19 pandemic under a Team Europe approach.



THE SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU

In 2019, 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 has provided 6 million euro to EU's regional fund for the Syria crisis (the Madad Fund) and 6 million euro to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF, or the Valletta Fund).

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

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 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 for the period 2014–2020. 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 and negotiations are ongoing.

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 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 Member States and EU institutions.

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).



Photo: Sida

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

JOINT PROGRAMMING – WORKING BETTER TOGETHER

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 – or Working Better Together as it is often called – 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 the 2030 Agenda. Joint Programming is suggested to be the preferred approach to EU programming under the proposed new development cooperation instrument, NDICI. Other means to strengthen a joint EU approach to international development are also being considered, and in March 2020 EU and its Member States decided to adopt a Team Europe approach to the collective COVID-19 response.

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 align 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 17 EU Member States. The purpose of the network is to improve aid effectiveness and promote closer cooperation and exchanges of experiences between development agencies in Europe.

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

SIDA AND THE COOPERATION WITH THE EU

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 – Ukraine

Sida, the EU, Germany, Denmark, Poland and Estonia are working together under a Team Europe approach to support the Local Empowerment, Accountability and Development Programme in Ukraine. For the period 2016–2021, the EU Commission has delegated EUR 34.2 million to Sida for support to strengthen Ukraine's decentralization process and local governance system. To date, about one million Ukrainian citizens have benefitted from access to improved services from local governments. About seven million citizens are expected to have been reached by the end of the programme. Sida is co-financing the programme with the European Commission.

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's cooperation with the EU, please contact Sida's focal points for the EU: marie.bergstrom@sida.se and mikael.elofsson@sida.se.