

Research for development



POLICY FOR RESEARCH IN SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
2010 – 2014 AND STRATEGY FOR SIDA'S SUPPORT FOR
RESEARCH COOPERATION 2010 – 2014



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Government Offices
of Sweden

Produced by: The Department for Development Policy
and the MFA Information Service
Cover photo: Heldur Netocny, Phoenix &
Duncan Walker, iStockphoto
Printed by: Davidsons Tryckeri, Växjö, 2010
Article no: UD 10.016
ISBN: 978-91-7496-417-2

Additional copies of the booklet can be ordered on the MFA
website www.ud.se

Research for development

POLICY FOR RESEARCH IN SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
2010 – 2014 AND STRATEGY FOR SIDA'S SUPPORT FOR
RESEARCH COOPERATION 2010 – 2014



REGERINGSKANSLIET

**Government Offices
of Sweden**

Contents

Policy for research in Swedish development cooperation 2010 – 2014

1. Introduction: Research and development	7
2. Aims, relevant agencies and period of validity	8
3. Policy context	9
4. Overall objectives and areas of activity	10
4.1 Research capacity building in developing countries and regions	10
4.2 Research of relevance to developing countries	13
4.3 Swedish research of relevance to developing countries	14
5. Guiding principles	15
5.1 General principles	15
5.2 Conditions of research	15
5.3 Aid policy guidance	16
6. Implementation	17
6.1 Communication and implementation	17

Strategy for Sida's support for research cooperation 2010 – 2014

1. Introduction and aims	21
2. Operational goals	
2.1 Overall objective	23
2.2 Area objectives	23
2.2.1 Research capacity building in developing countries and regions	23

2.2.2 Research of relevance to developing countries	24
2.2.3 Swedish research of relevance to developing countries	25
3. Organisation and implementation	26
3.1 Research capacity building in developing countries and regions	27
3.2 Research of relevance to developing countries	28
3.3 Swedish research of relevance to developing countries	30
4. Monitoring and evaluation	31

POLICY FOR RESEARCH IN SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION 2010 – 2014

Summary

The objective of Swedish development cooperation is to help create conditions that will enable poor people to improve their lives. The Government considers that access to scientifically based knowledge is crucial to development in the developing countries.

The policy represents a basic platform for the management of research support financed under expenditure area 7, International Aid. The policy includes objectives and guiding principles.

The overall objective of Swedish research support is to strengthen and develop scientific research of relevance in the fight against poverty in developing countries.

To achieve this goal, Sweden is to focus its efforts on the following areas of activity:

- Research capacity building in developing countries and regions
- Research of relevance to developing countries.
- Swedish research of relevance to developing countries.

Work in these areas of activity is to be guided by a number of principles, the foremost of which is scientific quality.

The agencies affected by the policy are the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), and the Folke Bernadotte Academy. In addition, the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) has funds at its disposal that that may be paid directly to individual researchers, research groups, programmes and research centres.

The policy covers the period 2010–2014 inclusive.



Population census in a Ugandan village.

Photo: Mats Widén

1. Introduction: Research and development

A growing number of countries are discovering the need for research as a resource for development and global positioning. The global distribution of resources, however, is uneven. According to OECD estimates, some 21 per cent of the world's population live in the OECD countries. These countries account for 58 per cent of the world's total income, 72 per cent of Internet usage and more than 80 per cent of total funding for research. The OECD countries allocate between 1.5 and 4 per cent of their total GDP to research. The corresponding figure for the developing countries is 0.5 per cent (sub-Saharan Africa 0.3 per cent) of a much smaller GDP total.

The amount of resources a country allocates to research is reflected in the amount of international publications and patents it generates, which in turn correlates with the number of researchers, research centres such as universities and institutes, libraries and laboratories, and the level of guidance on research strategies. Applying such indicators, the uneven distribution of resources between rich and poor parts of the world becomes even more pronounced. Scarcely 2 per cent of the world's researchers are to be found in Africa, and they are responsible for less than one per cent of the world's total production of scientific articles. Moreover, this share is concentrated to only a handful of countries.

While the comparison between countries and regions reveals a disturbing picture of the developing countries' proportional under-representation, the fundamental problem is the considerable gap in many developing countries between the demand for and the supply of scientifically based knowledge relating to country-specific problems and needs. This gap can only partially be closed with the aid of internationally produced knowledge. Developing countries must have the resources to own and conduct research themselves. This is vital if they are to produce their own country-specific research and if they are to acquire, transform and apply internationally developed knowledge and technology.

Research is an important component in the development of what we call the 'knowledge-based society'. It involves interaction between research and society at large, i.e. innovation systems. The robustness and quality of this interaction depends on how the research is organised and financed. Insufficient resource allocation and the lack of guidance available to researchers in many developing countries may inhibit this important interaction.

In a knowledge society, universities and research institutions represent forums for critical analysis. The level of autonomy in these knowledge environments depends on their capacity and scope for communicating their activities, expressed as intellectual freedom and the right to publish and freely disseminate research findings. Thus respect for freedom of expression is a prerequisite of a knowledge-based society. In many developing countries, such scope is politically curtailed, and this impedes the development of a society based on pluralism, diversity and good governance.

Interaction between research and education is crucial to development in both areas. Research findings enrich the content of educational programmes and courses, primarily at higher study level. The quality and content of the education offered is in turn a decisive factor in the recruitment of researchers.

Research also has an important function as a basis for decision-making. Domestic analytical capacity and area-specific expertise through research are key components in this connection, and are essential if a country is to take part as an equally knowledgeable partner in the international discussion of important issues.

The extent and quality of the research produced, i.e. research of relevance to developing countries, is generally insufficient in relation to the geopolitical problems found there. This is primarily due to a lack of research resources in these countries, but also has to do with insufficient international production of scientifically based knowledge about poverty-related development issues. In many developing countries, weak structures for governance, quality assurance and personnel management are further factors which together inhibit capacity development.

2. Aims, relevant agencies and period of validity

The policy represents a basic platform for the management of research support financed under expenditure area 7, International Aid.

The agencies affected by the policy are the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), and the Folke Bernadotte Academy. In addition, the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) has funds at its disposal that that may be paid directly to individual researchers, research groups, programmes and research centres.

The policy covers the period 2010–2014 inclusive.

3. Policy context

As access to scientifically based development knowledge grows in importance, both the lack of sufficient resources for research in developing countries and the inadequate production of research of a high standard and of relevance to developing countries become increasingly serious problems. This policy, therefore, is based on an understanding that access to scientifically based knowledge is an important condition for poverty-reducing development in the developing countries.

The policy proceeds from the overall objective of Sweden's international development cooperation programme – to help create conditions that will enable poor people to improve their lives – and from the overall objective of the Government's policy for global development (Govt. Bill 2002/03:122), i.e. to contribute to fair and sustainable development in the world. Attitudes towards research are to be based on the premise of 'development through knowledge', where knowledge and its free dissemination of are viewed as a fundamental condition of development.

The six global challenges identified in the government communication 'Global challenges – our responsibility' (Govt. Comm. 2007/08:89), i.e. oppression, economic exclusion, migration flows, climate change and environmental impact, conflicts and fragile situations, plus communicable diseases and other health threats, all represent a further crucial point of reference for the policy. All the challenges have dimensions where scientifically based knowledge could be a vital component in the search for possible solutions.

Swedish support for research cooperation is to abide by the principles concerning aid efficiency laid down in the Paris Declaration and in the Action Plan adopted in Accra in 2008.

4. Overall objectives and areas of activity

The overall objective of the research support financed under expenditure area 7, International Aid, is:

to strengthen and develop research of relevance to the fight against poverty in developing countries.

To achieve this goal, Sweden is to focus its efforts on the following three priority areas:

- Research capacity building in developing countries and regions
- Research of relevance to developing countries
- Swedish research of relevance to developing countries

There is a clear link between these three areas of activity. Such linkages may therefore be given consideration when support decisions are to be made. They should not, however, be seen as an absolute requirement.

Under the following three headings, each area of activity is described in closer detail.

4.1. Research capacity building in developing countries and regions

The developing countries' capacity for pursuing their own research is crucial to their ability to identify, interpret, implement and disseminate research of relevance to their own development contexts. This includes, for instance, being able to independently

- offer attractive research environments,
- identify and define problem areas requiring research,
- undertake and apply their own research,
- take part in and make use of international research,
- evaluate research, and
- publish and disseminate research findings.

Research has come to be an increasingly important strategic resource in global competition. Consequently, a growing number of countries are

investing substantial resources in this field. While this development is making competition for internationally available research resources and researchers tougher, it is also creating more opportunities for international research cooperation activities. For the majority of developing countries, the bulk of scientifically based knowledge will be produced outside their borders. Developing countries, therefore, badly need access to the knowledge produced internationally. This does not mean, however, that they just need absorption capacity as recipients – they must also have sufficient resources of their own so as to be able to conduct research themselves. A country's access to its own research resources is a condition of international cooperation, something that is becoming increasingly apparent in the research system.

The growing international component in research is a result of the gains in quality to be had from comparing problem formulations, methods, analyses and outcomes at international level, and of cooperating internationally. Insufficient national resources in many developing countries mean that their researchers often have difficulty in attaining sufficient standards to make them interesting partners for other countries. At the same time, inter-

Research laboratory at Makerere University in Uganda.

Photo: Mats Widén



national comparisons, progress checks and cooperation are fundamental to the development of these countries' research capacities and quality levels.

The importance of research cooperation for capacity building must be reflected in a broad understanding of components and structures for research development. Via different types of research partnerships, countries can acquire knowledge of relevance to the various parts of a research system, from individual research programmes and administrative systems at university level to national and regional structures for research funding and policy development.

In light of this, domestic research capacity is seen as a precondition for qualitative, sustainable knowledge development. This includes the ability to independently:

- identify and define problem areas requiring research
- plan and implement research tasks
- take part in and make use of international research,
- evaluate, classify and adapt research
- publish, disseminate and apply research
- offer attractive research environments
- develop capacity for maintaining and updating the above areas.

Research capacity is to be viewed as the overall impact of development at various levels in a research system. The principal levels are:

- individual research capacity, reflected in the ability to identify, conduct and present research
- institutional capacity (universities and research institutes), reflected in the ability to mobilise and allocate resources, assess research, recruit and train researchers and supply laboratories, libraries, Internet services and other important infrastructure.
- national capacity, reflected in a country's respect for the right to freely publish and disseminate research and the ability to develop overall policies and strategies both for research and for the coordination and administration of national resources for research.
- regional and international capacity, reflected in resources for cooperation, financing and the dissemination of knowledge.

4.2. Research of relevance to developing countries

While research cannot be conducted without the requisite capacity, the next task concerns the importance of directing this capacity at areas of relevance in the fight against poverty in developing countries. The development of research capacity and research should be seen as two mutually supportive activities. Support for research generates research capacity.

In scale, scope and content, the research being produced in developing countries and at international level is failing to match needs in many areas. It is important, therefore, to channel resources towards the identification of neglected research areas, support for research in these areas and the dissemination and implementation of results.

Interaction between national, regional and international research practitioners is important in this connection. Through cooperation, exchange, comparative studies between research actors at different levels and in different geographical areas, research is strengthened and opportunities for disseminating and implementing results increase.

A relatively large proportion of researchers from developing countries live and work outside their native countries, not least African researchers. To a great extent, however, they continue to focus their research on areas of relevance to developing countries. The academic diaspora, therefore, is an important resource for strengthening research about and within these countries.

There are also qualitative advantages in cross-discipline collaboration. The challenges facing a society tend to be many and complex, and frequently require a multidisciplinary approach if the solutions are to be effective and well-balanced. Research on water, for instance, is not simply the domain of biologists and hydrologists but also embraces important social, economic, health-related and political knowledge dimensions that need to be considered in disciplinary terms.

4.3. Swedish research of relevance to developing countries

Sweden's active involvement and participation in global development issues is contingent on the availability of Swedish research expertise for qualitative, relevant participation in joint endeavours of various kinds – bilaterally, regionally and internationally.

Research partnerships are of key importance in this respect. Without close cooperation between researchers and institutions both internationally and in developing countries, there is a danger that Swedish research of particular relevance to developing countries and research on global development areas will overlook vital knowledge and quality dimensions.

Internationally competitive Swedish research expertise in the development field also represents an important resource for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sida and other relevant actors in this field.

5. Guiding principles

Sweden's research support under the development cooperation programme is guided by a number of different principles.

5.1 General principles

Quality as the prime factor. Scientific quality is to be assessed on the basis of international criteria and be the decisive factor when research support decisions are taken. The starting points are quality, development and renewal. This in turn is to be weighed against development-related relevance criteria. Such criteria, however, are always subordinate to scientific quality.

Ethical rules for research. Swedish research support is to accord with internationally recognised guidelines on research ethics.

International evaluation procedure for quality assurance. To ensure the quality, scientific relevance and objectivity of the research – and to avoid disqualification – assessments of Swedish applications for research projects and programmes from individual researchers, institutions, networks and organisations are as far as possible to be carried out by international scientific expertise.

Swedish research support is to be free from all forms of discrimination on such grounds as gender, ethnicity or social origin.

5.2 Conditions of research

The long-term character of research. It takes a long time both to develop efficient research systems and to obtain applicable research results. In principle, therefore, support for capacity building involves a lengthy commitment.

Risk-taking a research necessity. By no means all research generates results that can be directly applied in the search for a better society. Innovations and research breakthroughs are seldom a result of individual efforts. Rather, they are the cumulative outcome of many different attempts to arrive at a solution. Investments in vaccine research, for instance, do not always yield a usable vaccine but often bring researchers a step or two nearer a future solution. Support for research in developing countries must offer a degree of freedom that enables researchers to be flexible in their search for new knowledge. Both basic research and applied research are of crucial importance.

5.3 Aid policy guidance

The recipient's own priorities as a guide. In all countries, access to domestic knowledge production through research based on national needs is an important condition. Given this, Swedish support for research should proceed from the developing countries' own priorities – with the emphasis on poverty reduction. The same applies to research priorities that have been established by regional and international organisations and which are granted support.

Students at Makerere University in Uganda.

Photo: Mats Widén



6. Implementation

The policy is to guide the relevant bodies (Sida, the Nordic Africa Institute and the Folke Bernadotte Academy) in their management of Swedish research support. It is also to serve as a guide in cases where research is financed by the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs).

The Government is to adopt a special strategy for Sida's development research support during the period 2010–2014.

In the case of the Nordic Africa Institute and the Folke Bernadotte Academy, present or future strategies of their own, action plans and similar policy documents are all to be revised/formulated in accordance with this policy.

To ensure that research support has the greatest possible impact, it is to be limited in scope, both geographically and thematically. This delimitation is to reflect both implemented country focus processes and Swedish thematic expertise.

6.1 Communication and implementation

At the implementation stage, research support is to be guided by the following principles.

Flexibility. Since the challenges that societies face vary both over time and from one country to another, research support must be flexible. Swedish support, therefore, should be open and responsive to shifts in the national and regional research areas defined by the recipient. However, to ensure coherence and synergies, this flexibility must be weighed against existing national resources in priority areas and the potential for cooperation both in the recipient country and in Sweden.

Dialogue with other countries and international actors. The policy's contextual understanding of the importance of research for development, goal fulfilment and guiding principles, is to serve as a guide in Sweden's dialogues with governments in partner countries and other research-related national, regional and international actors.

Implementation of the Paris Declaration. The Declaration represents a valuable methodological tool for shaping bilateral research initiatives. The policy is to serve as an aid and a starting point in Sweden's dialogues with the governments of partner countries and other donors in accordance with the Paris Declarations' stated aims concerning ownership, alignment, harmoni-

sation, better donor coordination, and mutual responsibility for development cooperation.

Coordination with other research financiers. Based on the developing countries' own priorities – formulated in policies and strategies – Swedish research support should as far as possible be coordinated with that of like-minded donors. In this connection, Sweden should be proactive in various donor forums in pursuit of greater coordination and coherence, both nationally in recipient countries and in the EU and other internationally important contexts, such as the International Forum for Research Donors. Greater coordination and cooperation with financiers in the Swedish research system must also be sought.

Coordination and harmonisation of support forms. Forms of support associated with the overall priority areas should be designed in such a way that they exploit any synergies that may exist. This applies in particular to linkages between bilateral initiatives and initiatives directed at Swedish research.

Avoid the creation of parallel support structures. In line with Sweden's policy of following the developing countries' own priorities regarding thematic focus and basic premises, and their own structures for capacity building in bilateral, regional and international programmes, Swedish research support should not seek to establish parallel structures or functions. As far as possible, existing systems and organisational structures should be used and developed.

The dissemination of research results and forums for dialogue. If research results are to influence how society develops, ongoing dialogue between research producers and potential clients is essential. Such dialogue can only be meaningful if the research system is able to present its findings in a way that is comprehensible to the recipient. Clients must also communicate their knowledge needs to the research system at an early stage. Swedish research support, therefore, should include resources for the creation of forums of various kinds that facilitate a constructive dialogue between research practitioners and recipients.

Intellectual freedom and unrestricted communication. There is a close link between development, human rights and knowledge. Research and the dissemination of research findings impact best in societies that permit unrestricted communication. Research support, therefore, must be provided

in such a way as to create the best possible conditions for intellectual freedom, and the freedom to disseminate knowledge must be respected.

Combating discrimination. Both in its approach and in its results, research is sometimes blind to discrimination of one kind or another. Often, therefore, the application of scientifically based knowledge necessitates an integrated analysis from a social, economic and political rights perspective. Swedish research support must strive to ensure that research actors become better at assessing and taking into account potential effects on society of the results they can be expected to generate. This is not simply about assessing discriminatory effects but also concerns what effects research has when applied more widely, including such areas as environment and climate, and health.

Research on an equal footing. The relationship between Swedish researchers and researchers from developing countries is basically unequal in terms of resources. This is also reflected in an imbalance between researchers and research groups as regards their ability to influence the formulation, implementation and reporting of research. Swedish research support is to be designed in such a way that it helps prevent the development of a superior and an inferior status in this relationship.

Knock-on effects in other areas. The results and knock-on effects generated through research support should be communicated in one way or another to other development areas of relevance in the partner countries concerned. Results and knock-on effects should also be communicated within the Swedish development cooperation sphere and to other relevant actors.

Strategy for Sida's support for research cooperation 2010 – 2014

Summary

This strategy governs Sida's support for research cooperation during the period from 2010 to 2014 inclusive. The strategy is based on the Government's policy for research cooperation, which in turn is a response to developing countries' need for scientifically based knowledge as a means of effectively combating poverty. Sida's research cooperation is a cornerstone of the Swedish development research support system.

The overall objective of the Swedish research support financed under expenditure area 7, International Aid, is:

- to strengthen and develop research of relevance to the fight against poverty in developing countries

In order to achieve the overall objective under Sweden's development research policy, Sida's activities is to focus on three specific areas:

- Research capacity building in developing countries and regions
- Research of relevance to developing countries
- Swedish research of relevance to developing countries

Below, Sida's strategy objectives are specified for each area of activity:

Area objective: Research capacity building in developing countries and regions

- Partner countries and regional research actors are better able to plan, produce and use research in the fight against poverty.

Area objective: Research of relevance to developing countries:

- Increased production of research relevant to the fight against poverty in developing countries

Area objective: Swedish research of relevance to developing countries:

- Increased production of Swedish research of relevance in the fight against poverty in developing countries

The strategy also describes how Sida's research support is to be implemented and followed up.

1. Introduction and aims

By investing in research cooperation, Sweden can assist to strengthen partner countries' prospects of pursuing their own research and providing good-quality higher education. This initiative is combined with measures to strengthen partner countries' ability to formulate and implement research strategies, and to ensure that the research undertaken is of a high scientific standard.

Sida's task is to contribute to international research cooperation of relevance to developing countries and to give researchers and decision-makers in poor countries better access to this type of research.

The production of research of relevance to development is handled via international research cooperation, through Swedish universities and to research institutions in the partner countries.

Opportunities for utilising research as a tool of development are to be enhanced by such means as investment in innovation systems. The emphasis should be on support for forum and functions that facilitate exchange of information between the research community, the business community and society at large, e.g. via conferences and Internet-based platforms.

This strategy is based on Sweden's development research policy, which in turn is a response to the need for scientifically based knowledge as a means of effectively combating poverty.

Sida's research cooperation is a cornerstone of the Swedish development research funding system.

This strategy is to govern Sida's support for research cooperation during the period from 2010 to 2014 inclusive, and covers research activities financed under expenditure area 7, appropriation 1:1, International Aid. The said item is reserved for aid both to global and Swedish research and to research governed by financial conditions regulating support for bilateral

and regional capacity-building and research set out in Sida's appropriation directions.

The strategy also governs research support in bilateral partnerships.

Other forms of research support provided by Sida are governed by the policy for Swedish development research.

Sida's Research Council is to be consulted prior to all decisions on funding allocations.

Gathering seaweed for marine biological research in Inhaca, Mozambique.

Photo: Gustaf Eneroth, Phoenix



2. Operational goals

2.1 Overall objective

The overall objective of Swedish research cooperation financed under expenditure area 7, International Aid, is:

to strengthen and develop research of relevance to the fight against poverty in developing countries

In order to achieve the overall objective, activities are to focus on three specific areas:

- Research capacity building in developing countries and regions
- Research of relevance to developing countries
- Swedish research of relevance to developing countries

2.2. Area objectives

2.2.1 Research capacity building in developing countries and regions

The area objective is:

Partner countries and regional research actors are better able to plan, produce and use research in the fight against poverty.

This objective is based on a system-oriented approach to higher education, research and innovation. Through long-term, predictable research cooperation, institutions and structures of particular relevance and strategic importance are to be strengthened.

Activities are to focus on:

- improving the ability of partner countries to formulate research strategies for cooperation at both national and regional level
- boosting the capacity of both national and regional research councils to distribute funds and to ensure that research meets both prescribed quality standards and ethical requirements.

- increasing the number of research graduates in the partner countries, primarily through research training at universities in these countries
- enhancing efficiency in the implementation of research strategies by improving research management and making better use of available research resources.
- increasing the production of knowledge through university research in partner countries and through international cooperation with other universities.
- improving scientific communication and ensuring better access for researchers to research findings and to opportunities for presenting findings of their own to the international research community. Access to the Internet is a key component in this endeavour.
- ensuring that research has a greater impact on the fight against poverty as a result of cooperation between universities, public authorities, the business sector and civil society.

2.2.2 Research of relevance to developing countries

The area objective is:

Increased production of international research relevant to the fight against poverty in developing countries

In order to achieve this objective, Sida is to support research of relevance to development undertaken by Swedish universities, by regional and international research bodies, and by universities in the partner countries.

Activities are to focus on:

- supporting research on matters of particular relevance to developing low income countries
- highlighting research issues of relevance to development as defined in international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals and UN conventions (climate, environment, human rights, education, gender equality, food safety etc) cooperating with international, regional and national partners to identify new areas of research of relevance to developing countries.
- cooperating with international, regional and national partners to identify new areas of research of relevance to developing countries.

2.2.3 Swedish research of relevance to developing countries

The area objective is :

Increased production of research in Sweden of relevance in the fight against poverty in developing countries

Activities are to focus on:

- calls for funding applications from Swedish universities and other higher education institutions for research of relevance in the fight against poverty in developing countries.

3. Organisation and implementation

Calls for funding for research and admission to postgraduate studies are both to be advertised competitively and to be subject to quality control in accordance with prevailing academic principles.

Sida's Research Council is to offer guidance when decisions are to be taken on which research project or programme to support. The Research Council is appointed by the Government. Its prime task is to ensure that proposed projects are of sufficient scientific quality and relevance, and it is also required to ensure compliance with current strategy.

Sida is further required to seek operational forms that strengthen national ownership and that facilitate cooperation and co-financing both with other donors and with research financiers in Sweden and at international level.

Swedish research support and all areas of Swedish research cooperation are to be informed by a gender equality perspective, both in content and in choice of actor.

Swedish support must also be free from all forms of discrimination.

Swedish support is to be organised and structured in such a way that it counteracts an over- and subordination in the relationship between researchers in terms of the design, implementation and reporting of research cooperation.

The results of Swedish research support are to be disseminated to relevant actors, primarily those operating in the Swedish development cooperation sphere. Sida will also be expected to develop procedures and forms for the efficient and appropriate dissemination and communication of research results within its own organisation, and to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Sida is also to strive for increased cooperation with other research financiers, in Sweden, in the partner countries and internationally. Cooperation is to focus primarily on the strategic exchange of information and on different types of funding calls designed to mobilise researchers possessing the kinds of skills that have not previously been available in the fight against poverty and in efforts to promote global development.

Sida is to continue supporting the efforts of UNESCO/OECD and NEPAD to develop indicator systems for research and innovation adapted to conditions in developing countries.

3.1 Research capacity building in developing countries and regions

Support for capacity building is to be made available to research ministries, research councils and universities in developing countries with which Sweden cooperates. Support for capacity building may also be provided in combination with regional research cooperation funding in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Of these regions, Africa is to be given precedence. Support may also be provided to East European countries with which Sweden is cooperating under the objective for reform cooperation in Eastern Europe.

Research cooperation in the region or country concerned is to be guided as far as possible by national and intergovernmental research strategies. Research cooperation may also be guided by strategies developed at the country's leading university or by independent regional research organisations. When strategies are to be drawn up, Sida will provide support to the above actors in the form of dialogue, expertise, studies, statistics and financing. In doing so, Sida is to collaborate with Swedish research councils and their international partners as far as possible with a view to supplying expertise for reform and quality assurance work.

Swedish support for research cooperation is to abide by the principles of aid efficiency laid down in the Paris Declaration and in the Accra Action Plan. Sida will encourage other donors to proceed as far as possible consider national research strategies when providing support. Sida is to cooperate with other donors and research financiers in seeking closer alignment with the partner universities' priorities, increased use of the programme approach, greater harmonisation of research funding input, a reduction of parallel project units and greater emphasis on demand-driven capacity development. When extending support, Sida is to make use of existing national systems as far as possible.

Sida will be required to cooperate with other donors and research financiers in harmonising aid provision as called for in the Paris Declaration. This will include engaging in dialogue with other donors on the question of how the Declaration applies to international research. Here, Sida will encourage other donors to base their actions as far as possible on national research strategies and research councils and to proceed from national systems when providing support.

Research training is to be stepped up in the partner countries. Support for this form of training must be designed to comply with the partner countries' requirements concerning ownership and relevance. Swedish higher education institutions and researchers from other countries are to be given the means to help effectuate research training. Sida is to cooperate with the National Agency for Higher Education and to draw on its expertise in seeking to ensure that higher education and research in partner countries meet the prescribed standards. Sida will also be required to work with other organisations that offer scholarships and coordinate tutor networks.

To strengthen the leadership and administration of research in partner universities and organisations, Sida is to develop methods itself and also identify initiatives and partners for skills and methods development.

Sida will support programmes designed to enhance skills in scientific communication and research-related learning and to promote innovation between academia and the surrounding community. Sida will furthermore be required to promote greater South-South cooperation and to consider tripartite cooperation where relevant.

In implementing cooperation strategies, Sida will strive to ensure that Swedish support as a whole makes use of research and research findings to a greater extent. The aim is to link researchers from partner universities to parties in other areas of development cooperation.

The focus of research cooperation is to be described in Sweden's cooperation strategies for the countries/regions concerned, specific to each situation.

3.2 Research of relevance to developing countries

The capacity building objective must always be considered when supporting research of relevance to developing countries.

Sida will be required to identify research organisations, research councils and programme forms suitable for channelling funds to qualified researchers in priority research areas and among selected partner groups.

By channelling support internationally, regionally and nationally, Sida will aim to give researchers in Sweden's partner countries the opportunity to take part in international research networks. Sida should strive to ensure that this support is provided via long-term programme activities and is integrated into national strategies for capacity development.

Sida will be instructed to finance research programmes in a range of organisations, including ones with links to the UN system, with a view to strengthening the knowledge base for the development of normative and consultative international work. Where possible, Sida should promote greater South-South cooperation.

Sida can also co-finance research in EU programmes issuing calls for joint projects between European researchers and researchers in developing countries, primarily Africa but also Asia and Latin America. Together with Swedish research councils, Sida is to take steps to ensure that additional EU programmes open funding calls in this sphere and that research councils in Sweden's partner countries are able to take part in their formulation and implementation.

In pursuit of its operational objectives, and with due regard to the quality control and competition requirements, Sida must make sure that it has the scope and readiness to develop new aid forms so as to be able to exploit fresh research ideas and respond to changes in the international research system.

Malaria is an important field of research, as are HIV/AIDS and TB.

Photo: Mats Widén



3.3 Swedish research of relevance to developing countries

Sida is to broker funding appropriations to researchers active in Sweden via the Programme for development research (U-forsk).

Requirements concerning internationally competitive scientific quality and relevance are to be clearly stated. As far as possible, quality is to be assured by means of international peer review. Sida will be instructed to develop a sustainable system that fulfils these requirements.

Sida is to review the prospects for closer cooperation between Swedish researchers and researchers in developing countries. An important aspect in this endeavour is to assess the potential for joint applications and funding allocations between the two parties.

Sida will continue to finance Swedish Research Links, which is administered by the Swedish Research Council and seeks to promote cooperation between Swedish researchers and researchers from non-OECD countries. Sida is to support increased cooperation between Swedish research councils and research councils in partner countries in order to facilitate implementation of the programme. Sida will further consider broadening its current allocation for contact-building activities to include the funding of research. Swedish Research Links will also be opened up for the provision of funding to countries in the European community and to countries that have been phased out of bilateral research cooperation.

Sida and a selected Swedish university will jointly organise an international research conference of relevance to developing countries in both 2010 and 2012. These conferences will bring together Swedish and international researchers and practitioners, and be partially thematic in character.

4. Monitoring and evaluation

In conjunction with its annual report, Sida will be required to provide a detailed account of funding for research cooperation over the past year. This account is to include a list of aid disbursements, divided according to area of activity and partner country and perhaps also divided by theme. Sida is to describe how research and research expertise is used, and assess trends over time. The report is also to contain a description of available results, such as an account of how research cooperation has affected the development of institutions etc. In addition, Sida is to describe how it has used research in its implementation of cooperation and regional strategies.

In 2012 and 2014, annual reports are also to include an evaluation of progress towards the objectives set out in the strategy. This evaluation is to comprise both qualitative assessments and quantitative measures. Each objective is to be monitored and evaluated as follows:

Follow-up of objective for area 1:

- *Partner countries and regional research actors are better able to plan, produce and use research in the fight against poverty.*
 - Assessment of national and regional research councils' ability to extend Swedish research funding and ensure that it meets prescribed standards in terms of both scientific quality and ethics.
 - Number of applications and rate of approval per partner country and year.
 - Number of financed and published research projects, per partner country and year.
 - Changes in the number of registered postgraduate students compared with 2010, listed per partner country and year.
 - Number of PhDs listed by subject field, partner country and year.
 - Changes in the number of local research training courses eligible for support compared with 2010, listed by subject field, partner country and year.
 - Description of a number of innovation systems, listed by partner country and year.
 - Assessment of postdoctoral mobility among researchers – trends and patterns.

Follow-up of objective for area 2:

- *Increased production of research relevant to the fight against poverty in developing countries*
 - A list of organisations'/institutions' aid recipients, by theme, partner country and year.
 - Sida is to provide reports in 2012 and 2014 outlining relevant research results from various cooperation organisations/institutions.

Follow-up of objective for area 3:

- *Increased production of Swedish research of relevance in the fight against poverty in developing countries*
 - assessment of the quality, size and focus of the Swedish resource base, and analysis of thematic movements and trends.
 - an account of steps taken to promote cooperation between Swedish researchers and researchers in developing countries, plus the outcomes.
 - assessment of the scale, scope and direction of cooperation between Swedish researchers and the various development cooperation actors, such as Sida and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Sida is to initiate annual consultations with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on strategy implementation.



Research laboratory in Rondônia, Porto Velho, Brazil.

Photo: Pietro Cenini, Phoenix



The policy research for development is based on the objective of international development co-operation, to help create opportunities that will enable poor people to improve their conditions of life, and the Government's policy for global development, with the overall goal to contribute to equitable and sustainable development.



REGERINGSKANSLIET

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden**