



# Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Somalia 2018–2022

# 1. Focus

The objective of Sweden's international development cooperation is to create opportunities for people who live in poverty and oppression to improve their living conditions. Development cooperation will be based on the principles of aid and development effectiveness, and the new agreements reached by the international community in 2015: the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

Within the framework of this strategy, Sweden's development cooperation with Somalia will contribute to sustainable peace, strengthened resilience to crises and disasters, greater respect for human rights, gender equality, and environmentally and climate-resilient sustainable development. The strategy applies during the period 2018–2022 and provides a total of SEK 3 030 million, of which SEK 3 000 million is intended for activities implemented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and SEK 30 million is intended for activities implemented by the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA).<sup>1</sup>

**Sida's activities will contribute to the following objectives:**

**Peaceful and inclusive societies**

- Improved opportunities for participation in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes, particularly by women and young people.
- Strengthened capacity to implement sustainable and inclusive security sector reform.
- Strengthened capacity to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalisation.
- Improved conditions for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The FBA's activities will contribute to objectives 1 and 2 in this area.

<sup>1</sup> This strategy governs the use of funds under appropriation item 'Africa' in the appropriation directions for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for each budget year.

## 2. Country context/Regional context

### **Human rights, democracy and the rule of law**

- Strengthened systems and institutions that promote and guarantee respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- Increased participation and influence in democratic processes, particularly by women and young people.
- Strengthened institutional capacity to provide basic community services and accountability.

### **Resilience, environment, climate change and energy**

- Increased food security, and sustainable use and management of natural resources, focusing on agriculture, water and oceans.
- Greater access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.
- Greater resilience and adaptation to climate change and strengthened capacity to mitigate natural disasters, and reduce environmental degradation and environmental risk.

### **Equitable health, focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights**

- Greater and equitable access to health and medical care, focusing on women and children.
- Greater access to and respect for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Somalia is one of the world's poorest countries. Recurrent humanitarian crises and an ongoing armed conflict, particularly in the southern and central regions of the country, seriously challenge the country's development. At the same time, international pressure and increasing international support, including via the UN, have contributed to the reconstruction of the state and its institutions, and several important advances have been made in recent years. For example, the election of a more representative government was held in 2017, the proportion of women in parliament increased significantly and parliaments have been established in the federal member states. Politically, Somalia is in an important phase, with major opportunities to build on the advances made so far. Immediate challenges include further developing the federal governance system, ensuring an inclusive constitutional review, and preparing and conducting general elections in 2020–2021. The country also needs to lay the foundation for socio-economic growth and increase state revenue.

The poor security situation in large parts of Somalia is significantly inhibit-

ing growth. The al-Shabaab terrorist group has weakened in recent years but remains a destabilising force. Somalia's security forces are weak, and the presence of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) remains essential for stability. AMISOM began withdrawing its troops in December 2017, and reform of Somalia's security sector has been initiated in light of this. A plan for a new Somali national security architecture has been drafted, as has a plan for the gradual transition of security responsibilities from AMISOM to Somali security forces.

In addition to facing political and security challenges, Somalia is in a difficult humanitarian situation. Climate change and recurring droughts regularly affect the population, whose capacity for recovery is low following decades of conflict and instability. This has led to Somalia's current humanitarian crisis, with half the population in need of humanitarian assistance and more than one million of those in need living in difficult-to-reach areas in part due to the lack of security. Women, children, minorities and internally displaced persons are particularly vulnerable and at risk.

### 3. Activities

Sweden's development cooperation with Somalia will be based on and characterised by a rights perspective and the perspectives of poor people on development. The rights perspective means that human rights and democracy are regarded as fundamental to development. This approach involves giving visibility, ahead of each contribution, to individuals and groups who are discriminated against, excluded or marginalised. This is so that all people can enjoy their rights, regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, religion or other belief, sexual orientation, or transgender identity or expression. The perspectives of poor people on development means that the situation, needs, circumstances and priorities of poor women, men and children must be the starting point for poverty reduction and the promotion of equitable and sustainable development.

Sweden's development cooperation must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, and gender-equal. Development cooperation is based on a holistic approach to the challenges, needs and circumstances of people and societies. The guiding principle is that economic, social and

environmental conditions and processes are to be understood and managed in an integrated context. Gender equality and the empowerment and rights of women and girls are both goals in themselves and a prerequisite and a means for achieving sustainable global development. Violence and armed conflict are among the largest obstacles to economic and social development, and development cooperation is an important part of conflict prevention work. For this reason, an environmental and climate perspective, a gender perspective and a conflict perspective will be systematically integrated into Sweden's development cooperation with Somalia.

The internationally agreed principles of development effectiveness will be applied to Sweden's development cooperation and adapted to the specific context. The main responsibility for a country's development lies with the partner countries' governments and other national actors. Ownership is seen in a broad, inclusive perspective and, in addition to state actors, includes relevant parts of civil society. Development cooperation should place ownership of a country's own development at

the core by taking its cue from the partner country's development strategy and other relevant documents. The expertise and knowledge available among the Somali diaspora will be used. Support will be provided to initiatives that result in more women and men from the Somali diaspora contributing to meet the needs of Somali authorities, institutions and businesses, and in Somali society at large.

Activities should contribute to achieving several objectives in the various areas and be based on an integrated approach that strengthens the resilience of society and of poor and vulnerable people. It is essential to strengthen public institutions and the opportunities of all people to participate in statebuilding. Building national capacity to manage disasters at all levels of society is key.

To contribute to peaceful and more inclusive societies in Somalia, Sweden will support activities that counter the root causes of conflict, such as poverty and social, economic and political marginalisation and the lack of security. Women, young people and minorities are traditionally excluded from power

structures in Somalia. Young people are particularly vulnerable to recruitment by different parties to the conflict, making them an essential actor in conflict prevention work. Swedish support will contribute to the implementation of a national framework for peace and reconciliation, focusing particularly on women's and young people's participation in the peacebuilding process. Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and subsequent resolutions, and resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security will serve as guides. Sweden will also support a sustainable and inclusive security sector reform focusing on strengthened capacity to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalisation.

The FBA's activities will improve conditions for inclusive conflict resolution initiatives and strengthen the role of women and young people in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes. This may include support that strengthens the position of women and young people as actors, and initiatives that lead to gender mainstreaming in organisations and institutions involved in conflict resolution. The FBA's activities will also contribute to improved

conditions for implementing security sector reform, focusing on capacity development that strengthens civilian oversight and control, gender equality, human rights and the rule of law. The FBA and Sida will coordinate their activities and seek implementation synergies between their particular areas.

Ensuring the sustainable growth of Somalia's economy requires functioning institutions, a robust business sector and a developed social dialogue with representatives of employer and trade union organisations. In the long term, capacity for domestic resource mobilisation must increase. Sweden will support measures that promote social dialogue, business and entrepreneurship. More opportunities are needed for vocational education and training and productive employment opportunities to increase economic empowerment, not least for women and young people, as well as strengthened land and water use rights. Activities will contribute to productive employment with decent working conditions and more enterprise at local level. These measures are not only expected to reduce poverty and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people, they will also counteract

radicalisation, conflict and involuntary migration. Swedish development cooperation will contribute to enhancing conditions for free and fair trade, facilitating Somalia's integration with the international market and, in the long term, support its accession to the World Trade Organisation.

Sweden will contribute to greater respect for human rights in Somalia, focusing particularly on women and children. Activities will support systems and institutions that promote and guarantee respect for human rights and make accountability possible. Support to civil society to ensure greater capacity to enforce accountability is also important. A functioning judicial system is essential to maintain the rule of law and guarantee legal certainty. Priority is therefore given to support to justice sector reform based on human rights and gender-equality principles. More inclusive democracy should be promoted through support to the ongoing constitutional process and the planned elections during the strategy period. Cooperation with Somalia is expected to contribute to greater institutional capacity in public administration and greater ability to

provide basic public services, which will also help strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable people. The media play an important role in democratisation. Support to freedom of expression and a constructive, free press is essential, and Sweden will continue to support this sector. Within the framework of the strategy, Sida will also contribute to strengthening Somalia's capacity to manage migration – including returns, both within and to and from Somalia – in a way that safeguards the rights of migrants and refugees and contributes to the country's development.

Women's rights are largely ignored in Somalia. Unwanted pregnancies, gender-based violence, child marriage and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation are common. It is essential to strengthen women's enjoyment of their rights and increase their political participation and economic power. Preventive measures that change norms and values are key, as is access to justice and combating impunity. Sweden has an important role to play as one of the largest donors to efforts to increase gender equality in Somalia. There are opportunities for synergies with Sweden's extensive health care support.

Activities in the environmental and climate change area will contribute to increased resilience, particularly in the most vulnerable local communities and for vulnerable groups such as internally displaced persons. Improved sustainable and climate-adapted livelihood opportunities are crucial to reduce starvation and malnutrition, and improve resilience to recurring crises associated with environmental impacts, climate change and natural disasters. Sweden will contribute to strengthening institutional capacity at all levels to manage and use existing land and marine resources in an integrated, sustainable and equitable way. Support to improve knowledge and equipment among farmers and entrepreneurs, and the development of market systems, will enhance livelihood opportunities and improve economic empowerment, particularly of vulnerable groups. Support that contributes to an active civil society and rights of small-scale farmers and fishermen should be considered. Furthermore, Swedish activities will contribute to increasing access to affordable and renewable energy for households and production. Measures to improve energy efficiency are important to ensure this is achieved.

Somalia will be dependent on external resources for a long time to manage the consequences of humanitarian crises. Sweden's cooperation will support Somalia in building national capacity for analysis, early warning and coordination to withstand, manage and prevent crises. It will also improve opportunities for effective response, including access for humanitarian actors. To contribute to long-term solutions, crisis prevention and improving society's resilience, activities will also make use of opportunities to enhance synergies between humanitarian operations and development cooperation.

Somalia's health and medical care is fragmented and highly dependent on financing from the international community. Sweden will continue to support capacity building in Somalia's healthcare system, focusing particularly on leadership, governance, financing and capacity development. This should take place at local, state and federal level, and in close cooperation with humanitarian support in the health sector. Focus will be on activities that contribute to improved maternal and child health, and increased respect for sexual and reproductive health and

rights. Swedish cooperation will involve progressive forces in Somali society to work normatively to combat female genital mutilation, child and forced marriages, and violence against women. Synergies with other strategy areas are extensive, including the right to health and gender equality, access to justice, human security, and livelihood opportunities and economic empowerment.

The focus of activities and the specific context are the starting point for choice of partners and forms of collaboration. Sida will use the partners and forms of collaboration that most effectively contribute to achieving long-term sustainable results. Opportunities to work with the private sector will be examined, particularly regarding renewable energy.

Sweden's development cooperation will be adapted to the existing circumstances and the implementation of strategies for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance will therefore be flexible and fit-for-purpose. An innovative approach should be used, including the use of innovative forms of financing and mobilisation of additional financial resources.

Activities are conducted in a complex and challenging environment. The security situation is very serious. Implementation of activities may need to be adapted to the prevailing security situation in the country. This complex and challenging environment requires flexibility in implementing activities, which must be characterised by a clear conflict perspective.

Sweden will promote coherent and effective development and aid coordination in Somalia, primarily by leading or taking part in relevant coordinating groups, and by playing an active role in EU aid coordination.

Synergies between the different areas of the strategy must be harnessed. Synergies will also be sought with activities within the framework of other strategies, such as the Strategy for regional cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa, the Strategy for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in sub-Saharan Africa, and Sweden's extensive humanitarian support to Somalia. Support via multilateral organisations will be compatible with Sweden's priorities and approaches in cooperation with these multilateral

organisations. Sida will ensure a holistic approach is applied to all of Sweden's support to Somalia. Sweden's extensive engagement within development cooperation, including via multilateral organisations, may also be a basis for dialogue and influence with the country.

Sida's and the FBA's activities within the framework of this strategy will be followed up according to the principles and processes stated in the Government's guidelines for strategies in Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance.



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