

Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Ethiopia 2022-2026



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1. Strategic objectives

The objective of Sweden's international development assistance is to create conditions to improve the lives of people living in poverty and oppression. Development cooperation is based on the principles of aid and development effectiveness, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

The strategy will apply in 2022–2026 and provides a total of SEK 1 700 million for activities implemented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The strategy governs the use of funds under appropriation item 1:1.9 'Africa' in the appropriation directions for Sida for each budget year.

Activities will contribute to the following objectives.

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law

- Strengthened democracy, increased respect for human rights and the rule of law, including reduced corruption.
- Increased gender equality and enjoyment of, and respect for, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and reduced gender-based violence.

Environment, climate and sustainable use of natural resources

- Strengthened conditions for sustainable management and use of natural resources and ecosystems, including biodiversity.
- Better conditions for food security and strengthened adaptation and resilience to climate change and environmental and natural disasters.

Inclusive economic development

- Improved conditions for productive employment and decent work.
- Improved access to social security.

Peaceful inclusive societies

- Strengthened conditions for prevention, management and resolution of conflicts by peaceful means.

2. Country context

Ethiopia is one of the world's poorest countries, with a large and young population and multiple ethnic groups and cultures. Ethiopia is marked by challenges such as political instability, conflicts, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and recurring climate-related crises, including droughts, flooding and pest infestations of agricultural land. Ethiopia is experiencing its worst drought in decades, resulting in reduced crop yields that have impacted an estimated 6.8 million people. Ethiopia's long-standing, highly authoritarian system has created breeding grounds for political polarisation and conflict. Since the conflict between the Ethiopian federal government and Tigray forces in northern Ethiopia broke out in November 2020, violence and the population's vulnerability have increased dramatically in Tigray and neighbouring regions. Ethnic tensions are also prevalent in other parts of the country. In connection with the conflict in northern Ethiopia, serious violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and human rights have been reported. Humanitarian access to northern Ethiopia has been limited, with devastating consequences for millions of civilians. Sexual and gender-based violence has increased dramatically at the same time as access to SRHR has decreased. There is a real risk of a prolonged conflict affecting large parts of the country and continued severe consequences for civilians.

In addition to the ongoing armed conflict, Ethiopia is plagued by challenges such as climate change and natural disasters. The country is also characterised by inequality and a lack of gender equality, which in turn further exacerbate poverty. Access to basic services directly linked to natural resources, such as food, clean water and energy, is both inadequate and inequitable. Unemployment is rising, not least in urban environments, and particularly among young people and women. Ethiopia has a weak social safety net and access to social security is inadequate, particularly in rural areas. Ethiopia hosts almost 800 000 refugees and is the third-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. At the same time, the number of internally displaced people is immense, estimated at more than 4.2 million people. Land rights conflicts are also a core problem and the country's indebtedness is high, which makes it difficult to finance solutions to the challenges facing the country.

3. Activities

Sida will carry out, monitor and report on activities in accordance with the Government's guidelines for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance strategies (UD2017/21053). The guidelines state that

activities must be actively directed towards achieving the objectives and that actual performance must be monitored based on those objectives. The annual strategy report will be comprehensive and include an account, analysis and assessment of the results of the activities in relation to the stated objectives. Performance information will be used for decision-making, learning and accountability, and for ensuring transparency towards the general public. Monitoring will produce reliable and useful performance information in both the short and long term by using both qualitative and quantitative information where possible. Results monitoring will primarily establish whether activities have made a difference, in what way and for whom. Based on the existing conditions, monitoring will determine the extent to which development cooperation has made a difference.

Sweden's development cooperation contributes to sustainable development based on the 2030 Agenda, the financing for development commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The activities' contribution will be particularly relevant to the following sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda: no poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), good health and well-being (SDG 3), gender equality, (SDG 5), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), life on land (SDG 15), and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16). Strategy reports to the Government will include references to how activities contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda in relation to the strategy's priorities.

Activities will contribute to peaceful and democratic development, increased respect for human rights and to strengthening the rule of law and combating corruption. Activities should strengthen civil society, independent media and human rights defenders. This may also include support to cultural actors and other agents of change. As the civil society in Ethiopia is weak and divided, it is important to strengthen the civil society's capacity to contribute to increased respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, including accountability. Where possible and appropriate, activities may focus on strengthening democratic institutions. Cooperation will also contribute to greater gender equality and enjoyment of SRHR. This will also include activities to counter gender-based violence and discriminatory social norms. Women's empowerment, influence and active participation, including in peace processes, will be supported.

Sweden's development cooperation will contribute to environmentally and climate-resilient sustainable development to reduce the environmental and climate impacts. Activities will contribute to sustainable management and use of natural resources, including protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity and its ecosystem services. Good governance and administration are important to prevent environmental damage, deforestation and pollution. Activities will also contribute to food security, improved climate change adaptation and resilience, and to building disaster resilience and reducing disaster risks. Activities may also contribute to promoting environmentally and climate-resilient sustainable livelihoods, including productive, sustainable and resilient agriculture. Increased access to renewable energy, energy efficiency and innovative working methods should be promoted.

Sweden's development cooperation will contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development through better conditions for productive employment for people living in poverty. Activities may include support to contribute to a strengthened investment and business climate, not least in the agricultural sector. Activities will contribute to decent work and should also contribute to stronger workers' rights. Women's and young people's livelihood opportunities should be central. Moreover, activities will contribute to sustainable inclusive social protection systems that improve social security, not least for the most vulnerable. This may include support to mechanisms that contribute to enhanced resilience, enabling poor people to better deal with shocks and crises. Activities may also be linked to social sectors, such as health and education.

Development cooperation will contribute to conflict prevention, promotion of peace and reconciliation. The conflict in Tigray and other regions requires peace and reconciliation efforts. The conditions for dialogue and accountability should be improved and inclusive peacebuilding and reconciliation processes supported. Women's political and economic empowerment should be strengthened, as should young people's influence and meaningful participation.

Synergies between development and migration should be harnessed and, where relevant from a poverty and rights perspective, integrated into activities. This may include the rights and development opportunities of refugees, internally displaced persons or migrants, and conditions for safe, orderly and regulated migration. Activities will address factors that lead to people being forced to leave their homes or that make it difficult for them to

return, and contribute to creating opportunities for returns and sustainable reintegration.

The main cooperation partners in Ethiopia will be civil society organisations and multilateral and international organisations. Support to agents of change in the public sector may be considered when appropriate and deemed strategically important. Direct support will not be provided to state actors in Ethiopia.

The linkages between humanitarian assistance, long-term development cooperation and peacebuilding will be harnessed, promoted and strengthened. Sweden's development cooperation will be relevant and effective. Synergies will be sought between the different areas of the strategy and with activities within the framework of other relevant strategies for Sweden's development cooperation and humanitarian aid, including the strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation with Africa 2022-2026, and the strategy for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Africa 2022-2026. In the long run, activities will contribute to reducing dependency on humanitarian assistance. Potential synergies within the framework of the Sustainable Transition through Economic Partnership (STEP) will be taken into account, when the political situation allows. Mobilisation of additional resources to achieve the strategy's objectives should be stimulated, for example through guarantees. Activities to combat corruption will be integrated into all areas.

Sweden will promote coherent and effective development and aid coordination in the country. Opportunities for cooperation and synergies with other donors and actors should therefore be sought, not least with the EU as a central development policy actor and the multilateral system. Based on the 'Team Europe' approach, Sweden will work to promote the effective implementation of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe.