



Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Zambia 2018–2022



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

1. Focus

The objective of Sweden's international development cooperation is to create opportunities for people living in poverty and under oppression to improve their living conditions. Development cooperation will be based on the principles of aid and development effectiveness, and the new international 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, Swedish development cooperation with Zambia shall contribute to reduced inequality and strengthened resilience, greater respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and economic development that is inclusive and sustainable in terms of the environment and climate. The strategy applies for the period 2018–2022 and encompasses a total of SEK 2 250 million.¹

The activities of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will contribute to the following objectives:

Human rights, democracy, the rule of law and gender equality

- Improved capacity and increased democratic space to promote and strengthen human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- Increased gender equality, particularly in terms of political participation and economic empowerment.
- Increased social protection for people living in poverty.
- Improved conditions for democratic governance, reduced corruption, increased responsibility and accountability in public institutions.

- Strengthened capacity in public institutions, including capacity to mobilise additional actors and resources for sustainable development.

Equitable health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and nutrition

- Increased and equitable access to health services, with a focus on women, young people and children.
- Greater access to and respect for sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Improved nutrition for women, young people and children.

Environment, climate, renewable energy and sustainable, inclusive economic development and livelihoods

- Sustainable use of natural resources, increased sustainable productivity and production in agriculture, and increased resilience to climate change.
- Improved opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, with a focus on productive employment with decent working conditions, particularly for women and young people.
- Increased capacity to engage in sustainable trade, access to markets and value chains for small-scale farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Greater access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.

¹This 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

Up until the economic crisis in 2015, Zambia was for several years one of the most successful economies in Africa and has for a long time been seen as a role model in the region thanks to its peaceful and democratic development. At the same time, Zambia is one of the most unequal countries in the world and faces major challenges.

The period of good economic growth did not benefit the majority of the people. Inequalities are particularly obvious in terms of urban versus rural areas of the country, and between women and men, and girls and boys. The proportion of the country's population living in poverty is approximately 55 per cent, but in rural areas the figure is over 75 per cent. Almost 41 per cent of the population live in extreme poverty. Some progress has been made in health and education, and life expectancy has risen substantially, but serious problems remain in terms of food insecurity, malnutrition and an unbalanced diet, leading to an unusually high proportion of children with stunted growth. Population growth is high. Lack of gender equality and other inequalities in areas such as economic empowerment, education,

health, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and political participation are serious barriers to development. Reducing inequality is key to achieving long-term sustainable and inclusive socioeconomic development. Although Zambia remains a relatively stable country in the region from a conflict perspective, inequality contributes to growing tensions.

Since the election in 2016, the political climate has worsened and polarisation in the country has increased, in a way that is unusual for Zambia. Respect for human rights has worsened and the democratic space has shrunk, particularly in terms of freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of the media. With a growing burden of debt and a large state deficit, there is a need for economic diversification, reforms and macroeconomic stability. Corruption and shortcomings in terms of accountability affect poor people particularly badly. The informal sector is large and unemployment among the young part of the population is high. Climate change and unsustainable use of natural resources have a serious effect on the agriculture-dependent poor population and weakens their

resilience, while at the same time a functioning agricultural sector and markets are key to development. Increased trade has the potential to contribute to sustainable growth. Access to renewable and sustainable energy for the poor rural population is very limited, which also hampers economic development.

Zambia's Seventh National Development Plan for the period 2017–2021 is the country's roadmap to achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

3. Activities

Sweden's development cooperation with Zambia 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 individuals and groups who are facing discrimination, exclusion or marginalisation being made visible prior to each intervention. 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 will be the starting point for fighting poverty and promoting equitable and sustainable development.

Swedish development cooperation must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, and gender-equal. A holistic approach to the challenges, needs and circumstances of people and societies forms the foundation for development cooperation. 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 condition and a means for achieving sustainable global development. Violence and armed conflict are among the greatest obstacles to economic and social development, and development cooperation is an important element of conflict prevention. 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 Zambia.

The internationally agreed principles of aid and development effectiveness will be applied to Sweden's development cooperation and adapted to the specific context. The primary responsibility for a country's development lies with the partner countries' governments and other national actors. Ownership is seen in a broad, inclusive perspective which, 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, such as the country's national climate action plan.

Sweden will contribute to improved capacity among, and increased democratic space for, civil society and independent media to be able to promote democracy and human rights, and people's opportunities to express themselves freely. Activities will contribute to conflict prevention and reduced polarisation in society, for example by promoting constructive and inclusive dialogue between different actors in Zambia. Swedish development cooperation will contribute to combating corruption at all levels of society. It is important to support actors working on accountability in relation to public institutions in all areas. Activities will contribute to developing functioning public institutions, including improved internal governance and control in order to combat and deal with corruption and increase efficiency in public administration. Sweden should also contribute to public institutions' capacity to strengthen democratic participation and credible

and transparent election processes. Human rights, democracy, the rule of law and gender equality can also be promoted through actors in cultural life. Development cooperation will contribute to a more gender-equal society in which women's rights, political participation and economic empowerment are strengthened. Sweden should also contribute to the reduction of other inequalities in society, for example by providing support to social cash transfers for poverty reduction and long-term capacity building of inclusive social protection systems.

Development cooperation will contribute to improved health for people living in poverty, especially women, young people and children, so as to increase their resilience. Activities will strengthen the capacity of the health system, particularly to provide primary health care to poor and vulnerable people. Sweden will contribute to increased access to maternal and child health services and improved SRHR, with a special focus on young people. Efforts to combat gender-based violence are also important, as is increased respect for LGBTI people's

rights. There are considerable synergies between SRHR and other areas in the strategy, including gender equality, women's economic empowerment and participation in decision-making, social protection and efforts to combat gender-based violence. Development cooperation will also contribute to improved nutrition, particularly among women, children and young people – multisectoral approaches may be considered in this context.

Development cooperation will contribute to environmentally sustainable increased productivity and production in agriculture, which is a prerequisite for Zambia to be able to achieve higher and more inclusive economic growth. Sweden will support sustainable natural resource management, contribute to greater resilience and adaptation to climate change, crises and disasters, not least in rural areas. Sida will also work for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Activities will also contribute to increased productivity and inclusive employment with decent working conditions, particularly for women and young people. Strengthening women's economic empowerment is crucial. The domestic market needs

to be strengthened and opportunities for trade (including regional trade) need to be harnessed. Sweden should support activities that promote sustainable processing and use of natural resources, better conditions for sustainable production, free and fair trade, strengthened and sustainable value chains, and access to financial services and technology for small-scale farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses. Sweden will help make markets more accessible for people living in poverty and strengthen them in their role as producers and consumers. Cooperation with the private sector in this area may be further developed. Development cooperation will help people living in poverty gain increased access to renewable and sustainable energy, including in off-grid areas. Support to sustainable energy systems is also important for strengthening the business sector and economic development in Zambia, as well as for reduced deforestation. Sweden may contribute to collaboration with the private sector to mobilise capital and investments aimed at increasing the pace of electrification in rural areas. Moreover, Swedish support can help mobilise investments in renewable energy production,

electricity grids, more efficient energy use and reforms of the energy sector.

Development cooperation will be adapted to the current circumstances and implementation is therefore to be flexible and fit-for-purpose. The activities' focus and developments in the country serve as the basis for the selection of partners and forms of cooperation. Sida may use the partners and forms of cooperation that most effectively contribute to long-term sustainable results. An innovative approach should be used, including the use of innovative forms of financing and mobilisation of additional financial resources.

When implementing the strategy, Sweden will promote the building of broader and more self-sustaining relations between the countries. Sweden is therefore to promote the strengthening of conditions in Zambia for domestic resource mobilisation, international trade and investment, and is also to stimulate cooperation that can eventually continue in the long term without financing from development cooperation. Cooperation and exchange between Zambian and

Swedish public and private actors should be considered as part of institutional and capacity building, as well as for building broader and more self-sustaining relations.

Synergies between the various areas of the strategy will be harnessed as far as possible. Synergies will also be sought with activities within the framework of other strategies, such as strategies for regional and/or thematically based activities. Support via multilateral organisations will be compatible with Swedish priorities and approaches in cooperation with these organisations. In the implementation of the strategy, Sida is to ensure that there is a holistic approach to all of Sweden's support to the country. Sweden's comprehensive engagement in development cooperation, including through multilateral organisations, may also form a basis for dialogue with the country.

Sweden is to promote cohesive and effective development and aid coordination in the country, in particular through active participation in the EU's aid coordination and joint programming, to the extent possible.

The strategy is to be followed up in accordance with the principles and processes stated in the Government guidelines for strategies in Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian aid.



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