Leaving no one behind: Sweden’s approach and priorities

Sweden has embedded the pledge to leave no one behind in its 2016 government policy framework, which focuses on countries facing the greatest resource challenges, where development needs are greatest and where Sweden can make a difference. The two overarching principles are poor people’s perspectives and the rights perspective. In addition, three thematic perspectives are integrated into decision making, implementation and follow-up: 1) environment and climate; 2) gender equality; and 3) conflict.

Sweden’s multidimensional approach to poverty eradication (and new toolbox) focuses on resources, opportunities and choice, power and voice, and human security. It recognises that people and groups experiencing poverty and the drivers of poverty and vulnerability change with contexts. In line with this, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) seeks to identify who is excluded and marginalised in each country and then designs its approach to meet their needs.

Least developed and conflict or post-conflict countries are the main focus of its bilateral development co-operation. Support to middle-income countries is limited financially since access to finance may be less of a challenge than redistributing existing resources more equally. Sida is also strengthening its focus on the humanitarian-development nexus providing short-term crisis support while building sustainable pathways out of poverty.

Financial flows from Sweden to developing countries

![Figure 40.1. Net resource flows to developing countries, 2006-16, Sweden](image)

**Table 40.1. Results of the 2016 Global Partnership monitoring round (updated), Sweden**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Alignment and ownership by partner country (%)</th>
<th>Predictability (%)</th>
<th>Transparency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use of country-led results frameworks</td>
<td>Funding recorded in countries’ national budgets</td>
<td>Funding through countries’ systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>62.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>73.8%</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Please refer to Annex B for details on the indicators. Data on untied ODA, retrospective statistics and publishing to the IATI have been updated according to the latest information available.

[StatLink](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933797972)

Swedens performance against commitments for effective development co-operation
Sweden’s official development assistance

In 2017, Sweden provided USD 5.5 billion in net ODA (preliminary data), which represented 1.01% of gross national income (GNI) and a 9.9% increase in real terms from 2016, mostly due to an increase in grants for Africa and least developed countries (LDCs) and in contributions to multilateral organisations. Sweden is one of only five Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members to have met the UN target of 0.7% and the government is committed to continue delivering 1% of its GNI to ODA, which is backed by a broad bipartisan support in parliament. In 2017, in-donor refugee costs were USD 828 million and represented 15% of Sweden’s total net ODA, compared to 16.8% in 2016.

Sweden’s share of untied ODA (excluding administrative costs and in-donor refugee costs) increased from 86.8% in 2015 to 96.3% in 2016, and remains above the DAC average of 81.2% in 2016. The grant element of total ODA was 100% in 2016. Loans amounted to 0.9% of gross ODA.

In 2016, 71.2% of ODA was provided bilaterally, Sweden allocated 28.8% of total ODA as core contributions to multilateral organisations. In addition, it channelled 27.3% of its bilateral ODA to specific projects implemented by multilateral organisations (multi-bi/non-core contributions).

In 2016, 33.3% of bilateral ODA was programmed with partner countries, making Sweden’s share of country programmable aid lower than the DAC country average (46.8%). Project-type interventions accounted for 54% of this aid. Twenty-three per cent of bilateral ODA was allocated to refugees in donor country. Assuming in-donor refugee costs continue to decrease, Sweden aims to increase allocations to bilateral programmes from 2018.

In 2016, USD 958.8 million of bilateral ODA was channelled to and through civil society organisations (CSOs). Between 2015 and 2016, ODA channelled to and through CSOs increased as a share of bilateral aid (from 19.7% to 26.8%).

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Bilateral ODA was primarily focused on sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, USD 845 million was allocated to sub-Saharan Africa, USD 255.1 million to the Middle East, and USD 220 million to south and central Asia.

Figure 40.6. Share of bilateral ODA by region, 2016, gross disbursements, Sweden

In 2016, 18.6% of bilateral ODA went to Sweden’s top 10 recipients. All of its top 10 recipients are priority partners. In 2016, its support to fragile contexts reached USD 1.2 billion (33% of gross bilateral ODA). Support to fragile contexts consisted mainly of contributions to pooled funds (49%) and project-type interventions (45%).

Figure 40.7. Bilateral ODA to top recipients, 2016, gross disbursements, Sweden

In 2016, 24.8% of bilateral ODA (USD 885.8 million) was allocated to the LDCs. This is an increase from 17.8% in 2015, and is higher than the DAC average of 21.9%. The LDCs received the highest share of bilateral ODA in 2016, noting that 58.9% was unallocated by income group. At 0.27% of GNI in 2016, total ODA to the LDCs exceeds the UN target of 0.15% GNI.

Figure 40.8. Bilateral ODA by income group, 2010-16, gross disbursements, Sweden
In 2016, 40.6% of bilateral ODA was allocated to social infrastructure and services, for a total of USD 1.3 billion, with a strong focus on support to government and civil society (USD 825.9 million). Humanitarian aid amounted to USD 91 million. In 2016, Sweden committed USD 337.8 million (15.1% of bilateral allocable aid) to promote aid for trade and to improve developing countries’ trade performance and integration into the world economy.

USD 1.8 billion of bilateral ODA supported gender equality. In 2016, 87.6% of Swedish bilateral sector-allocable aid had gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal or significant objective (down from 88.8% in 2015), compared with the DAC country average of 36.5%. Sweden has a strong focus on gender equality in all sectors.

USD 1 billion of bilateral ODA supported the environment. In 2016, 46% of its bilateral allocable aid supported the environment and 29.7% (USD 662.8 million) focused on climate change, compared with the respective DAC country averages of 33% and 25.7%.

Note to reader: Annex B provides “Methodological notes on the profiles of Development Assistance Committee members”.

StatLink 2 http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933796813

StatLink 2 http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933796832

StatLink 2 http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933796851