

0.77% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.94% TOTAL AID/GNI

SWEDEN



“In our joint endeavour we need to remain true to our core values of solidarity and humanity. We need to modernise our operations and instruments, while still respecting politically agreed commitments such as the definition of ODA and development effectiveness.”

Ms Isabella Lövin, Swedish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, 8 November 2016

MAIN CHANGES IN 2016

A new overall policy framework for Swedish development cooperation was presented by the government in 2016. Swedish civil society organisations (CSOs) were largely supportive of the policy priorities laid out, such as the focus on poverty, gender equality, climate, and conflict management. CSOs have however called for further improvements to the coherence of government policies that support development priorities. The political opposition criticised the framework for its lack of focus and insufficient political negotiation within parliament. In-donor refugee costs, which peaked at extreme levels in Sweden with the arrival of many refugees in 2015, remained high in 2016, at 16.9% of total ODA. In 2016 the Swedish National Audit Office criticised the government's revisions to the aid budget to allow for migration projections, which undermined the predictability of aid for long-term planning. In early 2017 CONCORD Sweden published a controversial report on the extent to which some of Sweden's in-donor refugee costs could be classified as ODA under OECD DAC rules, highlighting the fact that in 2016 and 2017 the cost per asylum seeker reported as ODA had more than doubled compared to the average in 2007-2014. The high-level meeting in Nairobi on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation was also a priority for the Swedish government. The minister for development cooperation expressed continued support for the development effectiveness agenda and highlighted Sweden's concern at the trend whereby EU aid was being influenced by foreign, security and commercial objectives at the expense of a focus on poverty and development effectiveness.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2017 AND BEYOND

Regarding the projected reform of the OECD DAC, Sweden will continue to promote strict guidelines on counting security-related costs as ODA. Whether Sweden will seek stricter rules on reporting in-donor refugee costs as ODA is less certain. Regarding the new private-sector instruments, Sweden has stressed the importance of keeping ODA's development focus, respecting democratic local ownership, continuing to untie aid and ensuring the additionality of ODA. In 2015, Sweden was the first country in the world to declare a feminist foreign policy. In early 2017 Sweden led the She Decides campaign to raise the

funds needed for upholding the sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) of women and girls worldwide. Sweden also allocated an extra €20 m to SRHR in its 2017 aid budget. In its aid budget for 2017 the Swedish government highlighted the following areas: humanitarian needs, fragile states, human rights and democratic space, SRHR, the environment and climate. Swedish development policy maintains its approach to migration and development and does not set out to use development cooperation to prevent migratory movements.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT

- Set up a clear structure for reporting and following up on the internationally agreed development effectiveness principles, and continue actively to promote a rights-based and effective form of development cooperation.
- Adopt a plan for phasing out in-donor refugee costs from Swedish ODA, for the sake of the transparency of aid, its predictability, and a clear focus on poverty reduction.
- In the current reform of the OECD DAC and its guidelines, promote a rights-based, pro-poor and transparent global aid infrastructure and resist all attempts to serve the military, political or economic interests of donor countries.
- Ensure sufficient investment in and monitoring of the targets set in the EU's Gender Action Plan, and promote a feminist development policy for the EU.
- Maintain an active political dialogue with all stakeholders to create a broad political consensus around the perspectives and principles of Swedish aid.

SWEDEN - GENUINE AND INFLATED AID
(€ million, constant 2015)

