

Sweden

Reported ODA: EUR 4862 million

0.85% GNI (↑ from 0.79% in 2024)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 4527 million

0.79% GNI (↑ 4.4% difference with 2024)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 335 million

6.6% of total



National Platform: **CONCORD Sweden**

Billions of kronor⁵¹ cut from development assistance in the most marginalised countries.

Main trends

A trend currently re-shaping Sweden's role in the world is the **accelerating shift of development cooperation funds away from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East**. The funding shift from these **countries to Ukraine accelerated in 2025 and is projected to continue in 2026**. The magnitude of this shift can be illustrated by the fact that in 5 years 61% of funds, or SEK 7 billion, was removed from country-level and regional cooperation in Africa.

In **2025, Sweden's ODA seemingly increased from 0.79% to 0.85% of GNI**. This is mainly explained by a technical issue, where **Sweden reports a large, multi-year core support to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)** according to the DAC rules for loans. The whole value is reported as ODA in the year the promissory note was issued, even if the ODA spending occurs over multiple years in

the national budget. **Without the effect of this technicality, Sweden's ODA continued downward in 2025**. Between 2025 and 2026, there was also a budget cut of SEK 3 billion to the overall ODA budget. Sweden remains one of the few countries still above the 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) for international aid, but could fail to meet that commitment in a few years.

The **share of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)'s development assistance targeting gender was similar in 2025 compared to 2024**, but in absolute numbers continued decreasing. This is due to a reduced budget for Sida and more decisions on development cooperation spending made directly by the government. **Migration policies and export promotion continue to influence ODA, with a new, high-budget migration strategy for development cooperation with goals that heavily emphasise migration control**. There are two new private sector instruments managed by the Export Credit Agency. As of yet, there have been few activities funded, partly due to complicated rules and partly due to the recent launch of these instruments.

⁵¹ The *krona* (SEK) is the Swedish currency.

Government's relationship with civil society

The application processes for Sida grants took a lot of time and effort for many Swedish CSOs in 2025. According to a survey carried out by four civil society platforms, **more than two thirds of CSOs were negatively impacted by the redesign of the grant process. After contract terminations were announced in 2024 without valid grounds or risk- and impact analysis, large-grant contract periods were extended until September 2025 after protests.** Multiple changes during the selection process to rules on grant volumes, co-funding requirements and eligibility caused significant problems in many organisations' partner relations, donor relations and staff contracts. Transparency, fairness and the efficient use of time and resources were particularly undermined in the experience of a few organisations. Examples include party-affiliated foundations first being eligible for the civil society strategy and then having the rules changed to exclude them at a late stage of the selection process. Also, Islamic Relief Sweden was denied a humanitarian partnership after a process lacking transparency in the application of criteria.

Civil society was critical of the lack of structured, informed dialogue before the new development policy and the new civil society strategy were adopted in 2024. **In 2025, dialogue improved in some areas.** Overall, Sweden has several spaces for regular dialogue between government and civil society and dialogue continues, but could be strengthened.

Recommendations

→ **Set a clear path back to the 1% of GNI commitment** with gradual, annual increases to arrive at 1% by 2030.

→ **Urgently increase the share of Swedish development assistance which supports people living in poverty** and under oppression in lower-income and least developed countries, fragile states and regions severely affected by climate change.

→ **Work with civil society, academia and other development actors to promote evidence-based theories** of change and comply with principles of effective development cooperation, human rights, and humanitarian principles and law, avoiding ODA allocations based on export promotion and migration control purposes.

→ **Increase the share of Swedish development assistance allocated to gender equality** to reverse the current downward trend in this area and ensure that Swedish priority areas such as human rights and democracy, a strong civil society, child rights, health and sexual and reproductive health and rights , etc. are adequately resourced.