



Strategy for Sustainable Peace 2017–2022



1. Direction

The aim of Swedish international development cooperation is to create preconditions for better living conditions for people living in poverty and under oppression. Development cooperation will be based on the principles of aid effectiveness, and the new international agreements the international community agreed upon in 2015¹.

The overall objective of the Strategy for sustainable peace is to contribute to prevention of armed conflict, effective conflict resolution, sustainable peacebuilding and statebuilding, increased human security in fragile and conflict-affected states, and empowerment of women as well as of youth, children and other excluded groups in these situations.

The strategy will apply between 2017–2022 and covers the funds allocated in the appropriation directions of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) for each budget year².

¹The development agenda comprises the 2030 Agenda including its 17 Global Goals and 169 targets for sustainable development, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

²Activities within the framework of this strategy are financed in accordance with the appropriation directions concerning the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and appropriation directions concerning the Folke Bernadotte Academy for each budget year.

Activities will contribute to the following objectives:

Global capacity in prevention of armed conflict, peacebuilding and statebuilding processes, and human security.

1. Strengthened capacity to prevent armed conflict and support inclusive peacebuilding and statebuilding processes.
2. Strengthened participation and influence of women and of youth in dialogue and peace processes.
3. Strengthened capacity to promote human security in fragile and conflict-affected states, particularly women's and children's security.
4. Strengthened capacity to counter corruption and impunity in fragile and conflict-affected states.
5. Strengthened capacity to reduce uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons and to implement the UN Arms Trade Treaty.
6. Reduced threat from mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

National and local support during critical stages of prevention of armed conflicts and in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes, including in forgotten and protracted conflicts.

7. Strengthened participation of women and of young people and other key stakeholders during critical stages of national and local dialogue and peace processes and reconciliation.
8. Strengthened opportunities for peace dividends at national and local level during critical stages of prevention of armed conflict and in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes in fragile and conflict-affected states.

2. Context

An increased proportion of poor people live in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Today's interconnected and complex crises increase the need for an integrated approach and cross-system efforts to build peace and to prevent, handle and resolve conflicts at a national, regional and global level. Social inequality, poverty, hunger, weak institutional structures and democratic deficits are some of the main causes of conflicts.

The situation increases the need for a close interplay between humanitarian aid, long-term development cooperation, political dialogue and mediation as well as coordinated and complementary measures at national, regional and global level.

The devastating effects that conflicts have on development lead to increased poverty in areas affected by conflict, and even more so for the world's extremely poor people living in conflict-affected and fragile states. This results in even greater risk of human rights and international humanitarian law violations and of people being

displaced. Women and men, adults, young people and children are affected in different ways. Studies show a correlation between inclusive, gender-equal societies and sustainable peace.

The strategy therefore include a broad approach of prevention of armed conflict, peacebuilding and statebuilding, human security, and strengthened role for women and for young people in fragile and conflict-affected situations in order to enable relevant support to sustainable peace.

3. Activities

Sweden's development cooperation shall take as a point of departure and be characterised by a rights-based perspective and by the perspective of poor people on development. The rights perspective means that human rights and democracy are regarded as fundamental to development. Such an approach involves giving visibility, ahead of each contribution, to individuals and groups who are discriminated against, excluded and marginalised, so that all people, regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, religion or other belief, sexual orientation, or transgender identity or expression, can enjoy their rights. The perspectives of poor people on development means that the situation, needs, conditions and priorities of poor women, men and children will be the point of departure for fighting poverty and promoting faire and sustainable development.

Sweden's development cooperation must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, and gender-equal. The development cooperation is based on a comprehensive approach to the challenges, needs

and conditions of people and societies. 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 prerequisite 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 part of conflict prevention. An environmental and climate perspective, a gender equality perspective and a conflict perspective shall therefore be systematically integrated into Sweden's development cooperation.

The strategy primarily covers activities that have a global added value, of which cannot be attributed to a particular continent, region or country. The support shall contribute to Swedish priority issues to impact and affect the international normative policy in the areas covered by the strategy and at the same time reach out broadly at regional,

national and local level. Support may therefore be given to organisations, networks or other actors that are standard-setting and thus play a key role in Sweden's priority issues. Sweden shall especially stand up for rights issues that are not sufficiently emphasised by other international cooperation actors. Internationally agreed principles on aid and development effectiveness shall be applied. Sweden's resource base, including Swedish experiences, expertise and networks in different sectors of society are to be considered in implementation.

Swedish development cooperation shall also relate to relevant UN resolutions³ and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding within OECD/DAC, which includes experiences from the New Deal Principles for implementation in fragile situations.

A long-term approach in combination with speed, flexibility and calculated risk-taking are crucial for both Sweden's and the international community's ability to effectively contribute to the prevention of armed conflict, and strengthen conflict management and peacebuilding. Rapid action is of great importance for efforts at national and local level.

³Relevant UN resolutions include: The agenda for women, peace and security – including resolutions 1325 and 2242 (women, peace and security), 2250 (youth, peace and security) and 2282 (sustaining peace).

Activities shall be context specific and inclusive, and provide support to nationally and locally owned and led peace processes, which are prerequisites for sustainable peace.

The strategy includes both financing at global level and in local situations where there is an increased need for rapid and flexible support. This includes situations where Sweden is politically engaged, but lacks the ability to act within existing bilateral or regional strategies. It also includes strategies where Sweden has no bilateral strategy after consultation with the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs),

Consequently, activities shall provide support to meet global challenges and support global policy and method development. This will include support to the UN, the World Bank and other international organisations that contribute to achieving the objectives of the strategy, including organisations based in developing countries and fragile and conflict-affected states to strengthen their capacity to contribute to policy development at the global level.

Support at national and local level in critical stages of peacebuilding and statebuilding processes shall include

financing for increased local participation in peace processes, as well as support for peace dividends such as stabilisation, confidence-building measures and increased human security.

Activities shall consider the prevention of armed conflicts related to climate, natural resource and health-related threats as well as the connection to irregular and involuntary migration. Productive employment with decent working conditions and training is important for preventing conflicts and reducing the risk of relapse into armed conflict.

Activities within the area of human security include security sector reform, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants, mine action and measures against the illegal and uncontrolled spread of small arms, light weapons and ammunition. In addition, opportunities for vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth, to earn a living are included. Children's right to influence their situation and the protection from all forms of violence must be guaranteed to enable sustainable development.

In a world of increasing humanitarian needs, working on the root causes of humanitarian crises is crucial. Activities shall contribute to increased collaboration between actors in the

humanitarian system and long-term development cooperation with a focus on joint analysis, planning and goal formulation.

The political character of the activities and the limited possibilities for development cooperation to by itself address the causes of conflict require close dialogue between relevant actors. In this dialogue, activities within the framework of country-, regional- and thematic strategies must be considered in order to promote complementarity.

Strategic dialogue on the implementation of the strategy shall take place regularly and when it is especially warranted. The implementation of the strategy shall be characterised by an adaptive and iterative way of working.

The prevention of violent extremism will be included in Sida's approach to peacebuilding and statebuilding. The Folke Bernadotte Academy will contribute to objectives 1–5 and 7.

The strategy will be followed up according to the principles and processes stated in the Government's Guidelines for Strategies in Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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