

Strategy for capacity development and collaboration 2011–2013

Summary

This strategy governs the use of Sida's appropriation item 'capacity development and collaboration' for the period 2011–2013. Most of the contributions have previously been managed within the framework of the strategy for global development initiatives 2008–2010.

The overall objective of capacity development and collaboration is that both Swedish and international actors, including in developing countries, have the capacity and skills to contribute to the overall objective of international development cooperation and of reform cooperation in eastern Europe. The objective is to be achieved through skills and institutional development in partner countries and other developing countries and for Swedish development cooperation actors, and by involving and mobilising other actors. Important components are the promotion of innovative approaches and collaboration in Sweden, partner countries and globally.

The strategy's areas of activity are:

- capacity and institutional development of organisations in developing countries through international training programmes (ITP),
- resource base development (primarily through Swedish staff working in multilateral organisations and the EU, training programmes in Sida's field operations, and scholarship, exchange and trainee programmes),
- collaboration with and support through business sector actors (Business for Development/B4D), and
- Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D).

1. Introduction

Special initiatives for capacity development in developing countries, resource base development and collaboration with various actors, such as civil society and the private sector, are necessary for Swedish development cooperation to be able to contribute to poverty reduction effectively and efficiently.

Activities within the framework of this strategy are to focus on skills and institutional development in order to put partner countries and other developing countries, and Swedish and international development cooperation actors in a better position to achieve the objectives of international development cooperation and of reform cooperation in Eastern Europe. Opportunities to promote innovative approaches and increased collaboration between different actors are important components.

The present strategy governs the use of funds under Sida's appropriation item 'capacity development and collaboration'.

Activities are to be based on the objectives of international development cooperation and of reform cooperation in Eastern Europe. Activities will be conducted in accordance with the Swedish policy for global development (PGU).

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall objectives

The overall objective of capacity development and collaboration is:

- that both Swedish and international actors, including in developing countries, have the capacity and skills to contribute to the objectives of international development cooperation and of reform cooperation in Eastern Europe.

The objective is to be achieved through capacity and institutional development of organisations in developing countries, resource base development, collaboration with and support through private sector actors and the use of information and communication technology for development. Innovative approaches and working methods are to be encouraged. A rights-based working method is to be applied.

2.2 *Objectives and direction of the different areas of activity*

2.2.1 *Capacity development in developing countries through international training programmes (ITP)*

The objective of the area of activity is:

- good skills and high capacity among organisations in developing countries to drive processes of change for more effective poverty reduction.

To achieve the objectives, Sida will:

- support capacity development through international training programmes (ITP) that target staff from various kinds of organisations in developing countries (such as civil society, the business sector and public administration),
- within the framework of ITP, create sustainable networks and partnerships between participants in training programmes and between participants and Swedish actors,
- stimulate ongoing and new participation from civil society organisations, private sector actors and relevant agencies and institutions, including during the work on identifying new programmes.

Training programmes are to be oriented towards areas prioritised by Sweden. The programmes may also cover important profile areas where there is special Swedish expertise, as well as needs and demands in developing countries. Examples of important profile areas may be integration of environmental issues such as climate and biological diversity, public administration reforms or information and communication technology. The composition of the training programmes will inter alia be based on the potential of achieving results through the activity.

It should be possible to invite all developing countries to participate in the programmes. In order to strengthen other bilateral development cooperation, certain programmes may be specially targeted to countries with which Sweden conducts long-term development cooperation, including conflict and post-conflict countries, reform cooperation or selective cooperation.

In addition to the above international training programmes, Sida will also contribute to activities at the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDESD).

2.2.2 *Resource base development*

The objectives of the area of activity are:

- greater impact for Swedish priorities in international development cooperation.
- providing feedback of experiences from international development cooperation to Swedish actors.

To achieve the objectives, Sida will:

- support activities to increase the number of qualified Swedes employed at international and regional organisations prioritised by the Government through special programmes for serving at multilateral or international organisations and the EU, and training programmes within Sida's field operations,
- support activities to broaden the Swedish resource base through special programmes for younger people within the framework of both higher education and business sector and civil society organisations.

Sida will conduct recruitment and provide funding for *Junior Professional Officers (JPO)*, *Special Assistants to the Resident Coordinator (SARC)* within the UN system or the equivalent at international financial institutions, *Young Experts* at the European Commission delegation (JED) or the equivalent, national experts in development cooperation at EU institutions such as the European Commission, the *European External Action Service (EEAS)*, and *Bilateral Associate Experts (BBE)* at Sida-related activities in the field. Support is also to be given to skills and capacity development within the UN through *United Nations Volunteers (UNV)* and *United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)*.

Placements should be compatible with Swedish priorities and/or within prioritised organisations, and can also be linked to Swedish financial support for special projects. A long-term perspective is to be adopted, aimed at forming a recruitment base for future employment within international development cooperation from those who have participated in the programmes.

Sida, in consultation (see Section 3.1) with the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs), will specify the focus (concerning such issues as recruitment, preparation, training and development) of the programmes with the aim of increasing Swedish participation in international organisations.

The activities of the International Programme Office for Education and Training on Gotland will continue. Scholarship programmes, such as *Minor Field Studies* and other programmes that contribute to increased knowledge of development cooperation, will continue to be carried out. Sida will develop a trainee programme for younger people in Swedish civil society and private sector organisations. Experiences of previous traineeships will be taken into account.

Sida will make it possible for Swedfund to carry out some of the traineeship.

2.2.3 *Support through and collaboration with business sector actors – (Business for Development/B4D)*

The objective of the area of activity is:

- private sector actors that effectively contribute to the objectives of international development cooperation and reform cooperation in Eastern Europe.

To achieve the objectives, Sida is to:

- collaborate with private sector actors to involve, mobilise and make better use of them as actors, suppliers, advisers and dialogue partners in development cooperation,
- stimulate private sector development and entrepreneurship in particularly poor countries and regions,
- involve and stimulate private sector actors in reducing poverty,
- cooperate and collaborate with other donors and actors, such as civil society organisations, regarding support through and collaborate with the private sector, including through strategic partnerships,
- work with innovative and flexible methods and working procedures,
- support strategic ICT4D activities for poverty reduction,
- contribute to the development of markets and production methods for the benefit of people living in poverty, by cooperating with organisations and companies.

The starting point for contributions in this area of activity is to stimulate private sector development and entrepreneurship in developing countries. The principles of untied aid are to guide the work.

Collaboration can occur between private sector actors and organisations in different countries, based on the aim of stimulating, in the most appropriate manner, private sector development, entrepreneurship and corporate responsibility in developing countries. The UN *Global Compact* principles are to be adhered to. The integration of sustainable use and environmental adaptation in development issues are important aspects of collaboration with private sector actors. Sida's contributions are to focus on areas that result in good leverage from Swedish development cooperation funding, and additional effect in relation to other activities.

Collaboration with private sector actors is mainly to take place in countries with which Sweden conducts development cooperation, including conflict and post-conflict countries, reform cooperation or selective cooperation.

In order to be able to respond in a flexible manner to initiatives coming from the private sector, Sida can support activities that complement existing bilateral cooperation strategies. As far as possible, the aim should be to gradually transfer such contributions to existing cooperation strategies. In certain cases, Sida can decide to fund private sector collaboration outside this group of countries.

Global activities are also to be carried out. Private sector collaboration can be used in most thematic areas of development cooperation, not just as a tool to promote economic development.

2.2.4 *Information and communication technology for development*¹

The objective of the area of activity is:

- good skills and high capacity among various actors to facilitate the effective use of, and access to, Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D).

To achieve the objective, Sida will:

- provide support to strategic ICT4D activities with an innovative approach. Access to, and the use of, new technology by women and girls in particular should be highlighted.

¹ The English abbreviation ICT, which is also in common use in Swedish, is used below.

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- support national and international actors regarding capacity and methods development, as well as experience surveys.
 - stimulate collaboration between new and more established actors in the area.

Sida will act for equal access to technology and equal opportunities for men, women, boys and girls to use ICT in an open society, and is also to contribute to the creation of new arenas and collaboration with new actors. Strategic ICT4D work is facilitated by inclusive cooperation with local, national and international actors with expertise in the area of ICT. Activities are to be designed in a way that promotes sustainability and the active participation of local societies, and their opportunities to maintain ICT solutions in the long term. Sida is also to work for ICT solutions that promote human rights and democracy, and counteract corruption. ICT4D contributions within the framework of the present strategy should be seen as part of overall support in this area.

3. Consultation, implementation and volume

3.1 Consultation

Sida will consult with the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) on the forms for continued management of previous financial terms for organisations and funds covered by the strategy for global development programmes 2008–2010.

In addition to ongoing dialogue between the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) and Sida, consultations are to be held at least twice a year. One of these consultation meetings is to focus on the results of the previous year while the other is to focus on strategy implementation.

3.2 Implementation

Implementation of the strategy should to a great extent be based on already established, well-functioning activities. In addition, implementation should, where relevant, be characterised by innovative thinking and development of new methods and working procedures, as well as flexibility and pilot initiatives. ICT4D should, where applicable, be integrated into all of the strategy's areas of activity.

Sida is to conduct activities at the *Sida Partnership Forum* (SPF) to strengthen both implementation of the strategy's areas of activity and other parts of development cooperation. SPF will offer training, skills development and meeting places/'arenas' for greater synergies and increased aid capacity among development cooperation actors, and to contribute to developing the Swedish resource base. SPF will thus be a resource to stimulate dialogue, exchanges of ideas and experiences, and collaboration between actors in development cooperation.

3.2 *Volume*

The volume for each year is established in connection with the decision on Sida's appropriation directions. Provided that the Riksdag allocates the requisite funds, the volume in 2011 will amount to approximately SEK 680 million.

Funds for activities at SPF from appropriation item 'capacity development and collaboration' is not to exceed SEK 28 million in 2011.

4. Follow-up

Sida is to develop an implementation plan for the present strategy within the framework of the agency's operational planning. A strategy report is to be produced as background material for one of the annual consultation meetings. The strategy report is to provide an account of results from activities supported by Sweden, highlight any problems with implementation of the strategy and, if applicable, new priorities within the areas of activity. The strategy report is also to contain an account of approved contributions, broken down by different country categories, forms of support and subject areas.

Evaluations of strategically important activities are to be carried out in accordance with Sida's evaluation plan.

Information on activities within the framework of the strategy, including results, is to be made publicly available and searchable.