

Results strategy for Sweden's  
international development cooperation in

# Zambia

2013 – 2017



REGERINGSKANSLIET

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**Government Offices  
of Sweden**

# Results strategy for Sweden's international development cooperation in Zambia 2013–2017

## 1. Expected results

This results strategy governs the use of funds allocated under appropriation item 9 'Africa' in the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) appropriation directions for each financial year. The strategy will apply for the period 2013–2017 and comprises a maximum of SEK 1.75 billion.

Activities within the strategy aim to contribute to creating the conditions for sustainable growth in Zambia, with the focus on increasing poor people's opportunities to support themselves by obtaining work and starting and running productive businesses, and on improving the basic health of women and children. Furthermore, Swedish development cooperation activities will contribute to strengthening democratic accountability and poor people's awareness of their rights.

The main target groups are women, children, young people and entrepreneurs.

Sweden's development cooperation activities in Zambia will contribute to further reducing Zambia's dependence on aid and making economic growth sustainable. During the strategy period the activities are expected to lead to the following results in three areas:

### 1. Improved health

- Improved access to quality health and medical care for women and children under the age of five, with the ambition that Sweden will contribute to trained staff assisting in at least 38 000 deliveries.
- Increased awareness of and access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights for girls and boys.
- Improved nutrition for pregnant women and children under the age of five, with the ambition that Sweden will contribute to at least 47 000 children under the age of five having a more nutritious diet.

## **2. Increased employment opportunities in rural and peri-urban areas and opportunities to start and run productive businesses**

- Increased number of productive jobs, particularly for women and young people, with the ambition that Sweden will contribute to at least 120 000 people having productive work in the agricultural sector.
- Increased access to secure and sustainable energy for households, public services and businesses.
- Increased access to financial services for small-scale farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses, with the ambition that Sweden will contribute to at least 30 000 small-scale farmers having access to financial services.
- Increased access to markets for small-scale farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses.
- More sustainable use of natural resources with the focus on agriculture, with the ambition that Sweden will contribute to at least 14 000 farmers basing their activities on sustainable use of land resources.

## **3. Strengthened democratic accountability and transparency, and increased awareness of human rights**

- Increased capacity, reduced corruption and increased openness in the Zambian public administration.
- Freer and more independent media.
- Enhanced capacity to demand accountability and increased awareness of human rights.

## **2. Country context**

Sweden's development cooperation with Zambia in the period 2008–2012 has contributed to results such as reductions in maternal and infant mortality rates, improved access to anti-retroviral drugs, lower prevalence of HIV and income poverty reduction among a large number of Zambian farmers. Initiatives in the energy sector have resulted in more people in rural areas being connected to the electricity grid. Support to civil society has meant that several organisations have strengthened their capacity for dialogue and accountability.

Several challenges remain ahead of the next strategy period. Although Zambia has demonstrated macroeconomic stability and good economic growth over the last ten years, this has not led to any major reduction in income poverty – over 60 per cent of the population live on less than USD 1.25 a day, and the equivalent figure for rural areas is around 80 per cent. Democracy has gradually been strengthened and consolidated since the transition to a multi-party system at the start of the 1990s, but problems remain with regard to corruption, for example.

The lack of quality health and medical care means that maternal and infant mortality rates are still high. The underlying factors include limited availability of and access to high-quality neonatal and paediatric care, and a lack of trained medical staff. Low awareness of, and limited access to, sexual and reproductive health services and high levels of malnutrition among pregnant women are further challenges. Unwanted teenage pregnancies are common, as are unsafe abortions. Women and girls in rural areas are particularly vulnerable.

Development in agriculture is limited by the poorly functioning market system, for example inefficient value chains and limited access to markets, technology, skills development opportunities and financial services. Inconsistent and vague state governance and one-sided and unevenly distributed subsidies impede the diversification of production. A lack of access to financial services and to clean and renewable energy reduces opportunities for entrepreneurship. Another major problem is the high rate of deforestation, driven by a very high level of dependence on charcoal and wood as energy sources.

Democracy has gradually been strengthened and consolidated since the transition to a multi-party system at the start of the 1990s, but problems remain. The political system is still characterised by weak political and financial accountability, a lack of openness and transparency, and continued high levels of corruption. Limits on the right and access to information, and on people's opportunities for influence result in limited popular participation.

### 3. Activities

The Government's assessment is that, for the implementation of this strategy, general budget support is not applicable at present. The choice of partners, including new actors in the private sector and civil society for example, should be made with the aim of promoting the achievement of results. A perspective beyond development cooperation is to be established. Sida is encouraged to actively identify innovative development cooperation methods and financing mechanisms.

Contributions are targeted towards areas in which Sweden has something special to add – Swedish added value – and can combine long-term programme-based support with catalytic contributions designed to contribute to long-term change. In implementing the strategy, Sweden will work for the continued increase of Zambia's domestic resource mobilisation and its capacity to effectively manage these resources.

#### **Area 1: Improved health**

The health and medical care system in Zambia is struggling with major challenges in primary and secondary care and at local and national level. A lack of trained health and medical staff, limited access to and awareness of sexual and reproductive health services as well as a high level of malnutrition among children and pregnant women are some examples of the problem areas.

Sweden's added value consists of credibility, expertise and experience in management and funding, as well as transparency and accountability in public health care systems. Sweden has experience of public funding, involving both public and private care providers, and has experience in areas such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexuality education and gender equality.

Sweden can contribute experience of collaboration between different administrative and political levels, and wide and deep cooperation between public, private, academic and non-profit actors to maximise the

utilisation of limited resources. Sweden's evidence-based knowledge regarding prevention can also contribute to the development of Zambian health care.

Promoting the basic health and security of women and children is an important task of Swedish development assistance. Swedish development assistance to Zambia will focus on increasing access to quality health and medical care with a focus on maternal and paediatric health care at district and local level where access is inadequate. This should be complemented with support to strengthen the national health and medical care system with the aim of ensuring the long-term sustainability of results.

#### **Area 2: Increased employment opportunities in rural and peri-urban areas and opportunities to start and run productive businesses**

Agriculture is a sector with the potential to increase incomes and employment in Zambia. An insufficient energy supply, inadequate access to financial services, underdeveloped markets and the unsustainable use of natural resources are all barriers to increasing poor people's opportunities for productive employment in agriculture.

Sweden has added value due to a tradition of long-term support in the area. Swedish support to the agriculture and energy sectors has improved over the time period, based on lessons learned from previous initiatives.

Freeing the productive potential of individuals and strengthening women's financial empowerment are important tasks of Swedish development cooperation. Swedish development cooperation with Zambia will focus on creating more opportunities for employment and livelihoods for women and young people by, for example, increasing access to clean and renewable energy based as far as possible on solutions with low environmental impact and contributing to more productive, market-oriented and sustainable agriculture. Sweden will contribute to increased access to services, intermediate goods and markets for small-scale farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses.

Swedish development assistance in the agricultural area is to act as a catalyst and should primarily focus on promoting initiatives by private and non-state actors that can contribute to the development of local markets, value chains focused on sustainable production and products and services that can contribute to increased employment and incomes, particularly for women and young people. Improved sustainable agricultural production and energy supply require clear regulatory frameworks, improved infrastructure and markets, and greater legal security with regard to land rights.

### **Area 3. Strengthened democratic accountability and transparency, and increased awareness of human rights**

Strong democratic institutions, accountability, openness, participation and reduced corruption are all necessary conditions that can improve the living conditions of poor people in Zambia.

Swedish support can, for example, focus on civil society, the media and key administrative authorities that are deemed to be potential agents of change with regard to strengthening democratic accountability, transparency/the right to information, and reducing corruption.

The donor presence in the results area is high but fragmented. Sweden's comparative advantages come from experience of building up well-functioning administration with authorities that work together to achieve operational objectives.

### **4. Follow-up**

The forms of follow-up are indicated in the Government's guidelines for results strategies within Sweden's international development cooperation.