

Results strategy for Sweden's
international development cooperation with

Uganda

2014 – 2018



REGERINGSKANSLIET

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**Government Offices
of Sweden**

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1. Expected results

This results strategy governs the use of funds under appropriation item 9 'Africa' in the appropriation directions for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for the relevant budget years. The strategy will cover the period from 2014 to 2018 and has been earmarked SEK 1 350 million.

Activities under the strategy aim to contribute to strengthening respect for human rights in Uganda and enhance the local population's opportunities to make a living and obtain improved health and freedom from violence.

Activities under the strategy are expected to contribute to the achievement of sub-objectives 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the Government's aid policy framework (Government Communications 2013/14:131).

Contributions within the framework of the strategy are expected to lead to the following results:

Strengthened democracy and gender equality, greater respect for human rights and freedom from oppression (sub-objective 1)

- Greater capacity of civil society to improve respect for civil and political rights
- Greater capacity of civil society to promote the conditions for citizens to influence political processes and demand accountability
- Enhanced rule of law, with a focus on access to justice for people who live in poverty.

Better opportunities for people living in poverty to contribute to and benefit from economic growth and obtain a good education (sub-objective 2)

- Strengthened competitiveness among producers and suppliers of goods and services
- Increased productive employment opportunities for women and young people
- Increased access to and control of productive resources for women
- Better access to social safety nets for vulnerable children.

Improved basic health (sub-objective 4)

- Improved access to high quality child and maternal care
- Improved access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and men, girls and boys.

Safeguarding human security and freedom from violence (sub-objective 5)

- Enhanced capacity to prevent gender-based violence.

2. Country context

Despite relatively strong economic growth and macro-economic stability, Uganda is characterised by widespread poverty and high population growth. The proportion of people living in poverty has fallen over the past 20 years, but rapid population growth has meant that the total number of people living in poverty has risen. Agriculture, where the majority of poor people work, does not provide sufficient opportunities for the growing population to make a living, and opportunities in other sectors, such as industry or the private service sector, have not grown fast enough. The business climate, low levels of education and poor infrastructure contribute to the low competitiveness of Ugandan industry.

Widespread corruption is a serious obstacle to development. The after-effects of earlier armed conflicts and lack of personal security also exacerbate the difficult situation of many people living in poverty. Other obstacles to development include lack of gender equality, environmental degradation and climate change. The high rate of population growth puts serious pressure on the health and education systems. The working population has a high dependency burden. Youth unemployment is high. Uganda's own resource mobilisation is among the lowest in the region but is expected to grow as a result of the extraction of the country's natural resources, including oil and gas. To be sustainable in the long term, this extraction must take into account environmental, social and economic aspects. Positive trends in Uganda include relatively strong economic growth over the past decade, good conditions for further growth in the medium term and an improved security situation in previously conflict-hit areas. Despite the introduction of a multi-party system, power continues to be highly concentrated, and the political opposition is fragmented.

The reason for Sweden's aid engagement is widespread poverty and the lack of respect for human rights. Sweden has a long-standing aid commitment in Uganda and sees added value in pursuing difficult issues such as freedom of expression, women's autonomy and empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and rights, access to contraception and LGBT rights.

3. Activities

Sida can use the cooperation partners and structures which most effectively contribute to the attainment of sustainable results, with the following caveats with regard to cooperation with the state.

The possibilities for cooperation with the state during the strategy period depend on the progress made by the Government in ensuring respect for human rights and combating corruption. However, given that the human rights situation has deteriorated and corruption is still widespread, the possibilities for cooperation with the state are limited. Consequently, working with the state should be avoided as far as possible. It may be that the possibilities for cooperation with the state change during the period of the strategy.

Cooperation should be structured in such a way that it contributes to greater openness, a focus on results and sustainable capacity. Long-term programme-based support can be combined with strategic and catalytic contributions. The Government's assessment is that general budget support cannot be envisaged at present. Sida should identify agents for change who can contribute to a positive development in line with expected results. By working broadly and supporting various agents for change, the opportunity exists to meet Uganda's most pressing development challenges.

Cross-border programmes and cooperation between countries in the region can be developed as a complement to, and in synergy with, bilateral contributions. Through its appropriation item Research collaboration, Sweden supports the development of Uganda's domestic research capacity. Synergies with research collaboration should be sought in order to promote knowledge and innovation within all result areas.

Sweden's aim is to work towards coherent and effective aid coordination, above all by means of active participation in the EU's aid coordination and joint programming.

Widespread corruption poses a general risk to the implementation, and particular account should be taken of this aspect in the design of aid. Aid should, as far as possible, contribute to preventing and combating corruption.

3.1 Strengthened democracy and gender equality, greater respect for human rights and freedom from oppression

Respect for civil and political rights in Uganda is weak. Power is highly concentrated, and the political opposition is fragmented. The democratic deficit, the lack of accountability, restrictions on civil and political rights, including freedom of expression and media freedom, and discrimination against vulnerable groups all constitute development challenges for Uganda.

By supporting agents for change in civil society and business who are pushing for reforms for a more effective and fair legal system, the conditions for enhancing democracy and the rule of law can be improved. Civil society actors are also expected to make information available and raise the awareness of the population about their civil and political rights and how to exercise them.

Sweden's aid should focus on giving citizens the opportunity to demand accountability from their Government, for example through support for civil society. The aid should also be structured so as to support those working to promote political and civil rights, and greater transparency and accountability between citizens and the state. Civil society has an important role to play to ensure that people who live in poverty have access to legal aid. Sweden should also continue to play an active role in supporting LGBT people's rights.

Sweden's earlier work to reinforce respect for human rights in Uganda has had mixed results, due to political developments in Uganda. There is therefore a real risk that the desired results will not be achieved. However, this risk can be borne, given the inherent challenges.

3.2 Better opportunities for people living in poverty to contribute to and benefit from economic growth and obtain a good education

Widespread poverty, youth unemployment and the heavy dependency burden on the working population are the motivations behind a Swedish focus on strengthening competitiveness and increasing opportunities for productive employment. Stronger growth, as a result of greater competitiveness and more opportunities for productive employment, is expected to contribute to greater public resource mobilisation, which is, in turn, a precondition for continuing efforts in the fields of health and education.

Strengthening the competitiveness of domestic suppliers of goods and services requires contributions to create a more favourable business climate, more opportunities for trade within the region and with the rest of the world, and less corruption.

Sweden can contribute to gender equality in Uganda by promoting women's access to and control of productive resources. One condition for women's participation is that girls have access to education and are given the opportunity to finish school. As more women than men live in poverty and as they often bear a heavy responsibility for the livelihood of the whole family, measures to promote women's access to and control of productive resources can be expected to contribute to reducing poverty, for example through enhanced opportunities for women and young people to earn a living from agriculture in rural areas.

Greater access to social safety nets is needed if Swedish aid is to reach the most vulnerable children, including orphans living with elderly people. Suitable non-state implementation partners should be sought initially in order to extend social safety nets. If sustainable results can be achieved only by working with the state, Sida may consider doing this, preferably through results-based aid.

3.3 Improved basic health

High population growth, together with major health challenges such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, has placed enormous strain on the health system in Uganda. There is a great need for improved access to child and maternal care, and this is an area where Sweden has a great deal of expertise and a long presence in Uganda.

Sweden can also offer added value in the broader - and more contested - area of sexual and reproductive health and rights. This includes access to contraception and safe and legal abortion.

Population growth highlights the need for improved access to contraception and information and knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights. LGBT people's rights are a particularly difficult area to work on in Uganda.

3.4 Safeguarding human security and freedom from violence

Violence against women is widespread in Uganda, and Sweden will therefore make contributions to combat gender-based violence, in line with Security Council resolution No 1325 on women and peace and security. Sweden can provide added value by working with men and boys to reduce gender-based violence.

4. Follow-up

The follow-up is based on the Government's guidelines for results strategies in Sweden's international aid.

The issue of state-to-state cooperation will be discussed at the recurring consultations between Sida and the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) so as to follow up the possibilities for such cooperation.