

SWEDEN



1.10% GENUINE AID/GNI

1.13% TOTAL AID/GNI



“An open, democratic, sustainable and gender-equal world is in Sweden’s interests, both national and international.”

– Per Olsson Fridh, Minister for International Development Cooperation, February 2021¹

MAIN CHANGES IN 2020

The year started with quite negative and inward-looking discussions on development cooperation, both in parliament and in the national media. The pandemic further polarised positions on international aid. Several political parties looked to strengthen international aid for people affected by the crisis. The Moderates and the Sweden Democrats, by contrast, proposed reducing aid by 30% and 50% respectively.

In 2020, Sweden’s ODA reached record figures in both absolute and relative terms (1.13% of GNI). This figure is higher than projected, however, because of €600m allocated to support the Green Climate Fund through a credit which, under DAC loan reporting rules, is reported in full as ODA in 2020 but which in fact covers multiple Swedish budget years. During the pandemic, fewer asylum seekers were able to arrive in Sweden, reducing in-donor refugee costs, so a budget of €60m was transferred to activities in partner countries.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

In early 2021, a new minister for international development cooperation was appointed; he started work with a statement of support for COVAX, the Covid-19 vaccine initiative. It is not yet clear how vaccine costs will affect Sweden’s ODA, but experts and civil society have called for donations of vaccine doses to COVAX, in addition to the existing aid budget.

Conflicts have worsened in several major partner countries in 2021. Democracy continues to be a strong focus for Sweden, and several cooperation strategies received additional human rights funding to combat the increased repression of civil liberties during the pandemic. The government has announced a stronger focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights and on violence against women and girls. For the environment

and climate, it has launched a biodiversity initiative to strengthen development cooperation for the conservation and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.



CASE STUDY BOX:

Over a five-year period, Sweden tripled its total climate finance.² Among EU members, Sweden stands out for the level of its total contribution and for its even balance between support for mitigation and adaptation. Sweden is a major contributor to the UN Green Climate Fund and one of few consistent contributors to other climate funds such as the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. It is also positive that all climate finance has been provided as grants, not loans.³ Sweden consistently provides 1% of GNI in ODA. Its climate finance (0.15% of GNI) is included in the ODA budget and is not additional.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT

- Continue to meet the target of 1% ODA/GNI and promote a lively, fact-based public debate on global development and development cooperation.
- In the coming update of Sweden’s strategy for civil society, strengthen long-term, trust-based partnerships and dialogue adapted to their context. Ensure a solid analysis of the multiple roles played by democratic participation and civil society in achieving just, sustainable societies, and a focus on results based on the priorities of local actors for change.
- Continue and strengthen Sweden’s support for the Financing for Development Agenda, especially on development cooperation, tax justice and debt relief. Achieve all the targets of the Addis Tax Initiative, and support partner countries in striving for better accountability, gender justice and equality in the mobilisation and distribution of their public resources.

¹ <https://www.dagen.se/debatt/2021/02/15/bistandsministern-rika-lander-behover-ta-storre-globalt-ansvar/>.

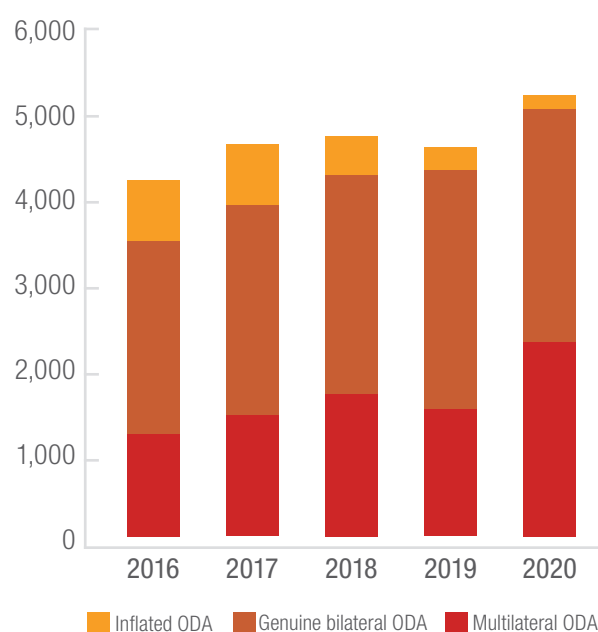
² <https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2020/10/sverige-bidrar-allt-mer-till-klimatgarder-i-utvecklingslander/>.

³ Act Alliance EU, *Setting the Standard: Climate finance from EU and EFTA Member States, 2021*, https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ACT-Alliance_EU_SettingTheStandard.pdf

- Support the global fight against COVID-19 further by donating all surplus vaccine doses from the Swedish EU quota: through COVAX, and in addition to the budget for international aid.

SWEDEN – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA

(€ million, constant 2019)



ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2019)

LDC	ODA to LDCs	ODA to LDCs (% GNI)	ODA to LDCs (% total ODA)
2016	1,233.44	0.27	28.70
2017	1,426.84	0.31	30.43
2018	1,522.10	0.34	31.73
2019	1,556.11	0.32	33.47

ODA TO DRM (€ million, constant 2019)

DRM	ODA for DRM	DRM (% bilateral)	DRM (% total ODA)
2016	4.81	0.16	0.11
2017	4.76	0.15	0.10
2018	10.82	0.35	0.23
2019	11.68	0.38	0.25

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Year	Bilateral gross	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2016	3,135.43	3,094.38	41.05	1.31
2017	3,288.50	3,249.05	39.45	1.20
2018	3,161.15	3,105.94	55.21	1.75
2019	3,163.87	3,107.18	56.68	1.79

ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Gender focus	Bi allocable	Total Screened	Not Screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2016	2,204.23	2,094.91	109.32	326.80	1,407.75	360.36	67.20	17.20
2017	2,399.70	2,342.72	56.98	322.74	1,570.27	449.71	67.03	19.20
2018	2,544.95	2,483.54	61.41	361.47	1,623.33	498.74	65.36	20.08
2019	2,720.80	2,720.80	0.00	411.31	1,830.15	479.33	67.27	17.62

ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2019)

CSO support	Non-CSO	Donor-CSO-Earmarked	International-CSO-Earmarked	Recipient-CSO-Earmarked	Donor-CSO-Core	International-CSO-Core	Recipient-CSO-Core	Total bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Total bilateral CSO support, % total ODA	Core bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Core bilateral CSO support, % total ODA
2016	2,265.35	248.28	280.74	32.67	34.56	138.47	30.48	25.24	17.81	6.71	4.74
2017	2,373.42	214.84	422.83	34.77	44.55	104.48	31.48	26.44	18.19	5.59	3.85
2018	2,193.39	228.20	439.10	37.56	30.59	104.25	35.09	28.51	18.23	5.54	3.54
2019	2,114.49	262.63	494.64	55.81	30.43	106.39	33.91	31.75	21.16	5.51	3.67