

Results strategy for global action on socially sustainable development 2014–2017

1. Expected results

This strategy governs the use of funds allocated under appropriation item ‘Global action on socially sustainable development’ in Sida’s appropriation directions for each financial year. The strategy will apply for 2014–2017.

Activities within the strategy will aim to contribute to healthier lives and lifestyles, as well as socially sustainable and equitable development, with a particular focus on women and children living in poverty. This is to be achieved, for example, through reduced maternal and child mortality rates, better access to water, sanitation, and nutritious food, as well as improved access to learning and good-quality education.

Activities are expected to contribute to the achievement of the following sub-objectives in the Government’s aid policy framework (Government Communication 2013/14:131):

Sub-objective 4: Improved basic health

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

The following results are expected:

Improved basic health

Focusing on improved survival and healthier lives

- Reduced child and maternal mortality.
- Increased number of adequately trained midwives.
- Strengthened health care systems.
- Increased access to basic health services.
- Reduced incidence of health risks and increased health promotion activities over the entire life cycle.

Focusing on improved access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and reduced vulnerability to HIV and AIDS

- Increased access to services for sexual and reproductive health and HIV and AIDS.
- Increased access to comprehensive sexuality education and contraceptives.
- Increased access to safe and legal abortions.

- Increased participation, awareness and responsibility among boys and men regarding gender equality, SRHR and HIV/AIDS.

Focusing on better access to clean water and basic sanitation

- More people have secure access to sustainable solutions for drinking water and sanitation.

- Greater knowledge about hygiene and risks associated with polluted water.
- Greater number of sanitation facilities in schools and health clinics.

Improved access to education

- More children and young people completing a good-quality, free education.
- Improved literacy among boys and girls in primary school.
- Strengthened educational systems focusing on primary, secondary and vocational education and training.
- Increased access to and improved opportunities for education for girls and children with disabilities.

2. Activities

The strategy covers activities that provide global value-added and that are not specific to a particular continent, region or country. Global contributions consist of support that is to help Swedish priority issues gain recognition and have an impact on international normative policy-making in the areas covered by the strategy. Support may therefore be given to organisations, networks or other actors that are standard-setters and thus play a key role in Sweden’s priority issues.

The normative work of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is of particular importance to this strategy. The need for reform of WHO’s work at country level is key. In addition to policy development support, global contributions can help to promote knowledge and institutional development, and the provision of public services to improve conditions for older people and their quality of life, as the world’s rapidly ageing population globally is an important issue.

Support may also be given to global organisations or funds when it is more effective for them to channel support to several countries in the area than for Sweden to provide contributions via bilateral agreements. Working against the tide in areas such as access to safe and legal abortions, sexuality education, access to contraceptives for young people and human rights for LGBT people where Sweden represents fundamental values not sufficiently emphasised by other actors in international cooperation should be considered in both operational contributions and in dialogue with partners.

Progress towards the internationally agreed goals to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health (MDGs 4 and 5 or their successors) is unevenly distributed, and least progress has been made towards the improved maternal health goal. Least progress of all has been made in conflict, post-conflict or crisis settings, where the maternal mortality rate is actually increasing. These areas are therefore considered to be relevant for the duration of the strategy period (2014–2017). The work is to focus on reducing the risk of women and girls dying in pregnancy and childbirth, and ensuring universal access to sexual and

reproductive health and rights.

A major challenge is that statistics on child and maternal mortality are often unreliable, making the production and use of reliable statistics particularly important. Other health-related priorities also include the global response to HIV and AIDS and contributions for greater and more equitable access to health care and counselling services, effective drugs, including antibiotics, vaccinations and sustainable health systems.

Knowledge development through education and lifelong learning is a prerequisite for poverty reduction, gender equality, participation and democracy, and economic development. Contributions are therefore also to include support to the international goals of education for all children (MDG 2 or its successor) and to eliminating gender differences in access to education (MDG 3A or its successor). Progress in education differs widely both within and between countries. Activities should therefore be based on an assessment of needs throughout the education chain. Support to education in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations should also be considered.

Water, proper sanitation and nutritious food are prerequisites for a decent life and a fundamental cornerstone in combating poverty, contributing both directly and indirectly to the achievement of several MDGs. Rapid urbanisation in many low-income countries often leads to inadequate access to basic social services. This in turn leads to poor health, inequality and increasing social problems. Air pollution is one of the major global causes of ill health and death. Activities that contribute to improved education, sustainable infrastructure for access to nutritious food, water and proper sanitation should be supported, especially in relation to children's and young girls' health. Access to nutritious food is crucial to people's health and economic potential. It is particularly important to focus on access to nutritious food for mothers and infants.

In total, activities are also to contribute to healthier lives and lifestyles over the entire life cycle, including by improving access to knowledge about health risks, and preventing and combating violence and exploitation.

Improved basic health

Focusing on improved survival and healthier lives

Activities will aim to contribute to reducing infant and maternal mortality, for example through strengthened health care systems in low-income countries and a greater role for midwives. They will also aim to promote effective and rational use of and access to medicines, especially antibiotics. Creating healthier communities for everyone, regardless of age, through health and safety promotion activities and efforts to reduce health risks and build resilience among people living in poverty should be supported. Furthermore, activities are to help support contributions promoting older people's security and health. Contributions aimed at helping to draw up new global health development goals or other analytical work to clarify the links between health, education and ability to work, water and sanitation, poverty reduction and economic development should be supported.

Focusing on improved access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and reduced vulnerability to HIV and AIDS

Activities will aim in particular to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of

women, girls and young people, including the right to comprehensive sexuality education, contraceptives and access to safe and legal abortions. This will help to reduce maternal mortality. Special attention is to be given to efforts to combat sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, linked to SRHR and populations at risk, including in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian crisis settings. Furthermore, efforts to change discriminatory norms are to be strengthened, focusing particularly on men's and boy's attitudes, responsibility and roles related to SRHR. Activities are also to help support the fight against all forms of gender-based violence, including care and support to victims of sexual violence.

Focusing on improved access to clean water and basic sanitation

Activities will aim to contribute to improved access to clean water and include measures to prevent and combat diseases caused by contaminated water and poor sanitation and hygiene (focusing on MDGs 4 and 5 or their successors). In this context, health care hygiene is a key area. Women's participation in and influence over the planning of drinking water supplies and sanitation is to be promoted. Sustainable, safe, cost-effective and tailored solutions based on a changing climate are to be supported, addressing the needs of poor and marginalised groups and, in particular, those of women and girls. This can be done through technological development, education, relevant research, greater private sector engagement and increased community participation in local planning partnerships.

Improved access to education

Activities will aim to help increase access to good-quality education and to pay particular attention to boys and girls who leave school early or who never gain access to education. Contributions to strengthen education systems, including vocational education and training, in low-income countries are to be supported. Global public goods that are relevant and of importance to learning, knowledge and policy development in low-income countries are to be promoted. The importance of education for people in countries in conflict and post-conflict settings is to receive particular attention.

3. Follow-up

Follow-up procedures are outlined in the Government's Guidelines for results strategies within Sweden's international aid.