



# Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Uganda 2018–2023



# 1. Focus

The objective of Sweden's international development cooperation is to create opportunities for people living in poverty and oppression to improve their living conditions. Development cooperation will be based on the principles of aid and development effectiveness, and the new agreements reached by the international community in 2015: the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

Within the framework of this strategy, Sweden's development cooperation with Uganda will contribute to greater respect for human rights and the rule of law, a stronger democracy and greater gender equality, environmentally and climate-resilient sustainable development, and equitable and good health. The strategy will apply in 2018–2023 and provides a total of SEK 2 400 million.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1)</sup> This strategy governs the use of funds under appropriation item Africa in the appropriation directions for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for each budget year.

The activities of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will contribute to the following objectives: :

**Human rights, democracy, the rule of law and gender equality**

- Improved conditions for women, men, girls and boys to influence political processes, demand accountability and enjoy their human rights
- Improved conditions for a peaceful society, strengthened legal rights and improved access to justice
- Strengthened capacity to prevent gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls

**Environment, climate change and sustainable, inclusive economic development**

- Improved conditions for and access to productive employment with decent working conditions, corporate social responsibility, and free and fair trade
- Sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services, greater resilience to climate change and greater sustainable productivity and production in agriculture
- Greater resilience among poor people, including in communities that receive refugees
- Greater access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency

**Equitable health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights**

- Improved and equitable access to basic health and medical care, with a focus on women, children and young people
- Greater access to and respect for sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Greater health resilience and social security for children

## 2. Country context

Uganda has experienced a high level of economic growth over the past two decades, contributing to rapid poverty reduction. However, in recent years poverty reduction has slowed and poverty has once again started to increase. Two thirds of those who lift themselves out of poverty risk falling back into it. Lack of employment, including for the large number of young people, may create instability and increase the risk of conflict. Natural resources such as forests and fish – which Ugandans living in poverty are particularly dependent on for their long-term survival – are being depleted at a fast pace. Climate change contributes to drought and changing rain periods, posing particular challenges for agriculture. This has resulted in reduced food supplies, among other things. The rapid and unplanned move to cities in combination with climate change also increases the risk of food insecurity and vulnerability.

The large influx of refugees from South Sudan since summer 2016 places the host communities in the northern parts

of the country under particularly great pressure. The western parts of the country have also received a growing number of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the past six months. The combination of the effects of climate change and the refugee situation causes increased vulnerability and a greater risk of conflict. At the same time, Uganda's integrative reception of refugees provides good opportunities for finding synergies between humanitarian support and long-term development cooperation in line with the UN's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

The general election in Uganda in early 2016 did not meet basic requirements concerning democracy and human rights. The election-related recommendations that Uganda's Supreme Court and the EU's election observation mission made after the election had not been followed up on any of the points by Uganda two years after the election. Civil society is dynamic and has grown since the previous election in 2011, but the

political space is subject to constant restrictions, including measures taken to restrict freedom of expression. In connection with the latest election, the main opposition candidate was subjected to politically motivated arrests and house arrests on numerous occasions. Constitutional amendments were adopted at the end of 2017. The age limit for the presidency was removed and a limit to a maximum of two electoral periods was reintroduced. In addition, the parliament's electoral period was extended. These amendments and the lack of electoral reforms contribute to an increased risk of conflict in society. Democratic space is shrinking and freedom of expression is experiencing a negative trend. Corruption in society is widespread.

Social sectors in Uganda are a low priority in the state budget and there is a serious need to improve access to and the quality of health and medical care services, particularly child and maternal health care, but also health care for young people. The country's rapid population growth and the large number of young people represent a

challenge for sustainable development. Lack of basic public services, such as education, aggravate people's vulnerability and worsen the population's resilience to crises and disasters, particularly in communities that receive refugees. Respect for and acceptance of sexual and reproductive health and rights are generally low. Child marriage and teenage pregnancies are major challenges for society. Discrimination on grounds of gender, sexual orientation and disability is a very common occurrence, as is sexually and gender-based violence. However, there is a strong women's movement that is an important actor for greater gender equality.

### 3. Activities

Sweden's development cooperation with Uganda will be based on and characterised by a rights perspective and the perspectives of poor people on development. The rights perspective means that human rights and democracy are regarded as fundamental to development. Such an approach involves giving visibility, ahead of each contribution, to individuals and groups who are discriminated against, excluded or marginalised. This is so that all people, regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, religion or other belief, sexual orientation, or transgender identity or expression can enjoy their rights. The perspectives of poor people on development means that the situation, needs, circumstances and priorities of poor women, men and children will be the starting point for fighting poverty and promoting equitable and sustainable development.

Sweden's development cooperation must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, and gender-equal. Development cooperation is based on a holistic approach to the challenges, needs

and circumstances of people and societies. The guiding principle is that economic, social and environmental conditions and processes are to be understood and managed in an integrated context. Gender equality and the empowerment and rights of women and girls are both goals in themselves and a prerequisite and a means for achieving sustainable global development. Violence and armed conflict are among the greatest obstacles to economic and social development, and development cooperation is an important part of conflict prevention. For this reason, an environmental and climate perspective, a gender perspective and a conflict perspective will be systematically integrated into Sweden's development cooperation with Uganda.

The internationally agreed principles on development effectiveness will be applied to Sweden's development cooperation and adapted to the specific context. The main responsibility for a country's development lies with the partner countries' governments and other national actors. Ownership is

seen in a broad, inclusive perspective and, in addition to state actors, includes relevant parts of civil society. Development cooperation must place ownership for development in focus by taking its cue from the partner country's development strategy and other relevant documents, such as Uganda's Green Growth Development Strategy.

The main partners in Uganda will continue to be civil society organisations and multilateral and international organisations. Limited cooperation with public actors may be considered following consultation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in order to strengthen critical national capacity and effective implementation where this is deemed necessary or is thought to have strong added value compared with other available options.

Sweden will help improve conditions for citizens to influence political processes, demand accountability and enjoy their human rights. Increased awareness among citizens is crucial here, as is greater capacity in civil society to work on these issues.

Support to cultural actors may be relevant in this context. Activities should contribute to strengthened capacity to fight corruption in society. Strengthening legal rights is a priority. This may include measures such as strengthening the link between informal and formal judicial systems.

To enhance democratic development, the conditions for a peaceful transition of power and conflict resolution need to be improved, at both local and national level, through dialogue and electoral reforms. In this respect, there will be a particular focus on women's and young people's participation. Particular attention will be given in activities to the role of civil society and the situation of people who are discriminated against and vulnerable, such as LGBTI people. Preventing violence based on gender, sexual orientation, transgender expression or identity, and disability and all types of discrimination against women and girls is a priority. Positive masculinity should continue to be encouraged. Activities will help strengthen gender equality and stress its advantages for the general development of society in Uganda.

Development cooperation will contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth, corporate social responsibility and free and fair trade. Sweden will contribute to increased economic empowerment, particularly for women and young people, through improved conditions for and access to productive employment with decent working conditions. In this context, it may be relevant to support capacity development of, and dialogue with, the social partners. Activities will contribute to increased resilience for vulnerable people, such as those most affected by climate change and people in communities that receive refugees, by, among other things, increasing basic public services in areas such as health and education. Activities will also contribute to increasing the agricultural sector's resilience to climate change. To increase food security, the agricultural sector's efficiency and value creation need to be improved by making agriculture more productive and strengthening access to national and international markets, financing, technology and intermediate goods. To achieve greater added value, other

growth sectors with high employment potential should also be stimulated. Increased use of renewable energy and greater energy efficiency are essential for creating economically sustainable growth, driven by increased entrepreneurship and increased productivity.

Sweden will help to ensure that more people achieve a good level of health in Uganda. In support of this, different actors in society are needed that work to increase knowledge about health and demand for and access to basic good-quality health and medical care services. In particular, Sweden will help to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights are respected and that information and services are accepted and provided to a greater extent. Activities should also help strengthen the resilience and social security of children. This applies primarily to vulnerable children in communities that receive refugees.

When implementing the strategy, Sweden will work to build broader and more self-supporting relations between



the countries. Sweden will therefore work to stimulate cooperation that, in the long term, can continue without development cooperation funding.

Development cooperation will be adapted to the existing circumstances and the implementation of strategies for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance will therefore be flexible and fit-for-purpose. Particular attention should be given in activities to the situation in the communities that receive refugees.

Sweden will work for cohesive and effective development and aid coordination in the country, primarily through active participation in the EU's aid coordination and joint programming.

Sida will ensure that there is a holistic view in the implementation of all Swedish support to the country. Synergies between the different areas of the strategy will be harnessed. Synergies will also be sought with activities within the framework of other strategies, such as strategies for regional

and/or thematic activities. Support via multilateral organisations will be compatible with Sweden's priorities and approaches in cooperation with these organisations. Through appropriation item 'Research cooperation', Sweden supports the development of domestic research capacity in Uganda. Synergies with research cooperation will be sought to promote knowledge, innovation and critical thinking in all of the strategy areas.

Sida's activities within the framework of the strategy will be followed up according to the principles and processes stated in the Government's guidelines for strategies in Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian aid.



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