

Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Bolivia 2021–2025



1. Strategic objectives

The objective of Sweden's international development cooperation is to create opportunities to improve the lives of people living in poverty and oppression. Sweden's development cooperation is based on the principles of aid and development effectiveness, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

The strategy applies in 2021–2025 and comprise a total of SEK 930 million for activities implemented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The strategy governs the use of funds under appropriation item 7 'Latin America' in the appropriation directions for Sida for each budget year.

Activities will contribute to the following objectives:

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

- Improved conditions for democracy and increased respect for human rights and the rule of law.
- Greater gender equality, including reduced gender-based violence and increased access to, and respect for, sexual and reproductive health and rights

Environment, climate and sustainable use of natural resources

- Reduced climate impact and enhanced resilience to climate change.
- Improved conditions for sustainable management and use of natural resources, including conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Greater access to sustainable community services, such as water, sanitation and waste management.

Inclusive economic development

- Improved opportunities for productive employment with decent working conditions and improved conditions for free and fair sustainable trade.
- Strengthened economic empowerment of women.

2. Country context

Over the past decade, Bolivia has made considerable progress in reducing poverty. Although legal protection for women, children and indigenous peoples has been strengthened, violations of their enjoyment of human rights still occur. Shrinking space for civil society and independent media has been observed in recent years. Corruption is a major and serious problem (at all levels) and, in certain geographic contexts, may be related to illegal production of and trade in narcotics.

Bolivia faces major environmental and climate challenges. Climate change and overexploitation threaten the country's extensive natural resources and biodiversity. Every year, drought, wildfires and floods impact large areas. Ultimately, this may threaten food security for a large proportion of the population. Health problems attributed to unfit water, sanitation and hygiene services are extensive.

Bolivia's economy is based largely on exports of natural resources and agricultural products. Despite good growth over the past 15 years, Bolivia remains one of the region's poorest countries. The indigenous peoples' influence and economic conditions have historically been very limited, and poverty is now more widespread among those belonging to these groups. Productivity in agriculture, mining and manufacturing is relatively low and technical skills are limited. Low global market prices for commodities have resulted in a substantial decline in the country's export income – a situation that has worsened since the outbreak of COVID-19 and that makes the country's economic prospects all the more uncertain in the short and medium term.

3. Activities

Sida will implement, monitor and report on activities in accordance with the Government's guidelines for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian aid strategies (UD2017/21053/IU). The guidelines state that activities must be actively directed towards achieving the objectives and that the actual performance must be monitored based on those objectives. The annual strategy report will be comprehensive and include a presentation, analysis and assessment of activities' performance in relation to stated objectives. Information about performance will be used for decision-making, learning and accountability, and for ensuring transparency to the general public. Monitoring will produce reliable and useful information about short- and long-term performance by using both qualitative and quantitative

information where possible. Performance monitoring will primarily establish whether activities have made a difference, how and for whom. Based on the existing conditions, follow-up will determine the extent to which development cooperation has made a difference.

Sweden's development cooperation will contribute to sustainable development based on the 2030 Agenda, the financing for development commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The activities' contribution will be particularly relevant to the following sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda: no poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), gender equality (SDG 5), clean water and sanitation for all (SDG 6), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), ecosystems and biodiversity (SDG 15), peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). Sida's strategy reports to the Government will refer to how activities contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Activities will contribute to strengthening agents promoting democratic governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law. This includes support to improve opportunities for citizens to influence political processes and demand accountability. Moreover, activities will contribute to increased transparency and reduced corruption in society.

Activities will promote increased gender equality and diversity through efforts to fight discrimination and transform gender structures. This includes special initiatives to reduce gender-based violence and increase access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Activities will contribute to reduced climate impact and increased resilience to climate change. They will also contribute to increased capacity for and knowledge about sustainable management and use of natural resources and ecosystems, with a special focus on increasing access to sustainable community services for water, sanitation and waste management. The circular economy will be promoted.

Activities will promote inclusive economic development. These efforts will include strengthening institutions and creating incentives for sustainable – preferably small-scale – production and consumption, sustainable trade, increased production through innovation, increased economic empowerment for women, including knowledge and skills, and promotion of

productive employment with decent working conditions. Activities will also aim to safeguard financially weak groups' access to the formal parts of the economy.

Sweden's development cooperation will be appropriate and effective. Activities within and between areas of the strategy will strive for an integrated approach and seek synergies with other strategies that are relevant to the development context. Sweden will promote coherent and effective development and aid coordination in the country, not least by seeking cooperation with relevant multilateral actors. Financial solutions that can contribute to stimulating other financial resources should be used.

Sweden's development cooperation will lay the foundation for broader relations between Sweden and Bolivia, and cooperation with the Swedish resource base should be deepened. This may be achieved by creating conditions for engagement through collaboration with the private sector, civil society and other agents of change, state actors and academics. Where relevant, the potential of digital transformation and innovation will be harnessed as a tool for achieving the objectives.