



Strategy for Sweden's development
cooperation with Burkina Faso
2018–2022



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 international agreements reached by the international community in 2015.¹

Within the framework of this strategy, Swedish development cooperation with Burkina Faso is to contribute to greater respect for human rights, institutional capacity growth, increased resilience to crises and disasters, environmentally and climate-resilient sustainable development, and improved opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. The strategy will apply during the period 2018 –2022 and provide a total of SEK 1 500 million.²

Activities will contribute to the following objectives.

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

- Strengthen respect for the rule of law and access to justice
- Stronger democratic institutions and increased openness and capacity in public administration
- Strengthen respect for human rights, especially for women and girls, and increased opportunities for vulnerable people to enjoy their rights
- Strengthened capacity of civil society to promote openness, accountability and greater respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law

Basic public services and livelihood opportunities

- Improved opportunities for sustainable livelihoods with a focus on small-scale farming
- Improved governance and sustainable use of natural resources
- Increased production of, and access to, sustainable renewable energy
- Improved access to basic public services and social security

¹) The development agenda comprises the 2030 Agenda including its 17 Global Goals and 169 targets for sustainable development, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement.

²) Contributions within the framework of this strategy are financed in accordance with the terms for appropriation item 9 in appropriation directions concerning the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Development (FfD) (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement.

2. Country context

The situation in Burkina Faso in recent years has been turbulent. The political tensions in 2014–15 brought about not only a democratic transition, but also economic and security-related changes. The popular movement and its ability to first get an authoritarian leader to resign and then avoid a coup, instead implementing democratic elections, stands as an example to other African countries. Civil society organisations have, with support from Sweden, played an important role in preserving democracy in Burkina Faso, and they are likely to continue doing so.

Poverty in Burkina Faso is widespread and most tangible in rural areas, where 80 per cent of the population and 90 per cent of poor people live. The country is dependent on aid and loans, and more than 30 per cent of the state budget is financed through aid. In 2016, the Government adopted a five-year national development strategy (Plan national de développement économique et social, PNDES), which aims to reduce poverty and unemployment and develop the economy. Education levels in rural areas are remarkably low,

particularly among girls and women. Less than 10 per cent of women in rural areas can read. Economic growth in the country has been negatively impacted by less investment and trade as a result of the political tensions in recent years and the deteriorating security situation in the northern parts of the country. Burkina Faso has an agricultural economy in which small-scale forestry and agriculture are the largest source of income for the country's budget. This makes the country vulnerable to climate change in the form of rising temperatures, more extreme weather conditions and increasingly unpredictable rainfall. There is a constant shortage of water.

Poverty, inadequate security and various disasters often affect women and girls particularly harshly. In addition to basic discrimination as a result of patriarchal norms and traditions, women and girls in Burkina Faso often lack economic empowerment and have limited resources to prevent and deal with various kinds of disasters. Girls are taken out of school earlier than boys,

and are often married off. Physical and gender-based violence, as well as female genital mutilation, are still major problems in society. Women and girls are also particularly severely affected by a lack of access to water and sanitation, as this leads to reduced security, poorer health and reduced participation in the economy and education, for example.

The continuing crisis in Mali and the spread of violent Islamist groups are having an adverse effect on the security situation in Burkina Faso, above all in the northern parts of the country, but also in the capital Ouagadougou. The Government has devoted major resources to combating this trend. In line with this, the country is also taking part in the joint force established by the countries in the G5 Sahel (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania and Chad) to combat terrorism and smuggling in the border areas of the Sahel region.

3. Activities

Sweden's development cooperation with Burkina Faso will be based on and characterised by a rights perspective and the perspective 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, 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. Democracy, human rights and gender equality can also be promoted through support for culture.

Sweden's development cooperation must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, and

gender-equal. Development cooperation is based on a comprehensive 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, the empowerment and rights of women and girls, and their enjoyment of human rights 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 Burkina Faso. A democratic, open and efficient administration in line with the rule of law is a prerequisite for development that is sustainable from a climate, economic and social perspective, and

that benefits all people. Building efficient and transparent public institutions at both central and local level, and strengthening public services with a special focus on the most vulnerable groups, are an overall theme that will permeate development cooperation throughout the strategy. This is expected to result in increased resilience and reduced poverty in society, as well as greater confidence in public institutions.

Burkina Faso's own priorities, as expressed in the national development strategy PNDES (Plan national de développement économique et social) for example, will be an important starting point for implementation of the strategy. Internationally agreed principles on development effectiveness are to be applied in Swedish development cooperation and adapted to the specific context. Sweden will also work for a coherent and effective aid policy in Burkina Faso, above all by taking an active part in EU aid coordination and joint EU programmes. The primary responsibility for Burkina Faso's

development lies with the country's government 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 is to place ownership of one's own development at the core by taking its cue from the PNDES and other relevant national documents.

The focus of activities forms the basis of the choice of cooperation partners and forms of cooperation. Sida can use the cooperation partners and structures which most effectively contribute to the attainment of results which are sustainable in the long term. Long-term programme-based support and new results-based forms can be combined with strategic and catalytic contributions and innovative financing. Sida may use budget support-like forms for poverty reduction, for example where payments are made once the agreed results have been achieved.

Development cooperation with Burkina Faso will have a perspective that goes beyond aid by helping to lay

the foundation for a gradual reduction of Burkina Faso's aid dependence. In implementing this strategy, Sweden will therefore encourage Burkina Faso to increase domestic resource mobilisation and stimulate cooperation that in the long term can continue without funding from development cooperation. Activities will be conducted in a way that ensures that the sustainability of results is promoted.

There are good opportunities for synergies between results areas, and these will be harnessed. Synergies will also be sought with activities within the frameworks of other strategies, such as the Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa. Support via multilateral organisations, known as multi-bi aid, should be compatible with Sweden's priorities and approaches in cooperation with multilateral organisations. Sida is to ensure that a holistic view is taken of the total Swedish support to Burkina Faso when implementing the strategy.

Cooperation with Burkina Faso will also help to develop efficient public institutions and democratic systems for long-term sustainable development. Swedish development cooperation with Burkina Faso will contribute to increased confidence in and consolidation of democracy. Sweden will also contribute to strengthening institutions and reforms that are particularly important for transforming Burkina Faso's revenues into development that will benefit all people, and to ensuring that the country's revenues are mobilised, used and accounted for in a more transparent and efficient manner. Cooperation is to strengthen public institutions from a risk reduction perspective to increase resilience in society. Moreover, support to strengthen the role of civil servants and increase efficiency, transparency and accountability in administration, and support to combat corruption can help increase confidence in public institutions in general. The decentralisation of decision-making should be supported. Sweden will contribute to increased implementation of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Preventive measures concerning gender-based violence and female genital mutilation should also be included.

Development cooperation is to contribute to strengthened capacity of civil society to ensure that human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, are respected and promoted. Greater knowledge about rights and obligations, and possibilities of demanding accountability – not least among marginalised people in society – is crucial. Civil society plays an important role in continuing to contribute to democratic developments, and in demanding accountability. The emergence of free and independent media that demands accountability is also very important. There is a particular need to focus on strengthening women's and girls' empowerment and participation in society, education and the economy, given their vulnerable position. As a supplement to publicly provided social services, Swedish support to civil society can be instrumental in increasing access to public services

and justice in rural areas and for vulnerable groups.

The sustainable use of land and forest in Burkina Faso can reduce the negative impact of climate change and natural disasters, help reduce poverty, ensure food security and thus reduce the risk of humanitarian crises and involuntary migration. Public administration, primarily at local level, is a key actor in this work. Sweden will contribute to increasing capacity in public administration for a decentralised, more inclusive and sustainable management of shared natural resources, for example through support to sustainable water resource management. This is expected to increase opportunities for greater resilience among vulnerable groups. Further, development cooperation will help to strengthen resilience against environmental impacts, such as climate change and natural disasters, and favour a transition to a resource-efficient and toxin-free ecocycle. Making the management of natural resources more sustainable and inclusive can strengthen resilience

to crises and increase productivity in agriculture. Decent working conditions are also important in this context. Swedish support will contribute to greater social security and to improving basic public services, such as health and education, making them more equitable, gender-equal and accessible to the poorest and most vulnerable people. Better access to public services increases the citizens' confidence in the state and strengthens the social contract. This is an important contributory factor for increased resilience to external shocks, for example as a result of climate change. Greater access to social security systems is considered to have the same effect, especially for the most vulnerable people, including in rural areas where 80 per cent of the population and 90 per cent of poor people live and work.

Development cooperation will also support national and local capacity for contingency planning and crisis management concerning recurrent natural and weather-related disasters and any conflicts that have an adverse

impact on Burkina Faso from a risk and sustainability perspective. There should be a focus on women and girls, which can be justified by the fact that they are important actors for the economy and represent a majority of those employed in agriculture, they have a key role to play in ensuring food security, and they are vulnerable to discrimination in society. Support in the area of natural resources should include water, for example by further developing the successful work on dams. In addition, Sweden should give support to increased access to, and use of, renewable energy, which is sustainable from a social, environmental and climate perspective.

Follow-up procedures are outlined in the Government's guidelines for strategies. Evaluation is to be seen as an integral part of continual follow-up and is to be conducted when necessary. Various performance monitoring methods are to be applied, using both qualitative and quantitative performance data.



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