



Strategy for Sweden's development
cooperation with Sudan
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 agreements reached by the international community in 2015.¹

Within the framework of this strategy, Sweden's development cooperation with Sudan is to contribute to sustainable peace, improved conditions for good public service delivery, and strengthened resilience. The strategy will apply in the period 2018–2022 and provide a total of SEK 1 200 million.²

¹The 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 (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement.

²This strategy governs the use of funds under appropriation item 9 'Africa' in the appropriation directions for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for each budget year.

Activities will contribute to the following objectives:

Sustainable peace

- More inclusive peace processes, with greater participation of women and young people.
- Improved conditions for peaceful and inclusive societies at the local level.

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law

- Improved rule of law, increased transparency, and strengthened conditions for accountability.
- Improved conditions for women's and girls' enjoyment of human rights, and for the rights of the child.

Environment, climate, agriculture and energy

- Increased and more sustainable agricultural productivity, and improved food security.
- More sustainable water resource management, and increased access to water and sanitation.
- Increased production of, and access to, renewable energy.

2. Country context

Sudan is one of the world's poorest countries, in which around half the population lives below the international poverty line of less than USD 1.90 per day. Considerable inequalities mark Sudanese society, not least between urban and rural areas. About 4.8 million of the population of around 39.6 million people are dependent on humanitarian assistance, particularly in areas affected by conflict or drought. Developments in the surrounding region, in which several countries are marked by insecurity and conflict, have an impact on developments in Sudan. Many refugees and migrants have found their way to Sudan, while around 2.3 million people have also been internally displaced. Sudan's economy developed well from 1990 to 2011, primarily because of major oil revenues. However, following South Sudan's succession, the country experienced an economic shock, losing three quarters of its oil reserves to the new state. There is considerable need for economic reforms and economic integration with neighbouring countries and the rest of the world. Sudan's situation makes the linking of political dialogue, development

cooperation and humanitarian assistance particularly important.

The conflicts in Sudan have subsided and changed in nature in recent years. Some progress has been made in the national peace process. There is a fragile ceasefire in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Developments remain uncertain and unpredictable, however, which is why there is an urgent need for reconciliation and peacebuilding. Several of the underlying causes of conflict and insecurity in Sudan still need to be addressed, including unequal distribution of power, lack of respect for human rights, limited access to basic public services such as education and health care, competition for natural resources, food and water insecurity, easy access to weapons and local disputes between different groups. The neglect of Sudan's peripheral areas has long been a root cause of poverty and insecurity. The conflicts in Sudan have particularly affected women and young people, while opportunities for these two groups to participate in the peace process have been limited.

There are major deficiencies in the protection of human rights and respect for the rule of law in Sudan. Opportunities for the population, especially women, to participate in democratic decision-making processes are limited. Civil society and the media are regularly prevented from operating. Extensive violations of human rights and international humanitarian law have taken place during the conflict in Sudan. Such violations and abuses, as well as widespread impunity, are root causes of continued conflict and insecurity. The situation for women and girls is particularly difficult. Traditional values, together with religious beliefs and legislation, restrict or hinder their enjoyment of their human rights. Sexual and gender-based violence, and genital mutilation, are commonplace.

Sudan is affected by climate change and environmental challenges, such as shorter and irregular rainy seasons, land erosion and pollution. Sparse vegetative cover in some areas results in an increased risk of desertification and land degradation. These difficulties are intensified by rapid population growth, which leads to an increasing demand for land. More than half the population are dependent on agriculture or cattle-farming for their livelihood. Competition for natural resources, such as water, land and minerals, and the adverse effects of climate change are

also root causes of local conflicts. Sudan played a prominent role in the African Group during the Paris Agreement negotiations.

3. Activities

Sweden's development cooperation with Sudan 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, 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 basis for poverty reduction and promotion of equitable and sustainable development.

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 circum-

stances 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 Sudan.

The internationally agreed principles on development effectiveness are to be applied in Swedish development cooperation and adapted to the specific context in Sudan. Primary responsibility for the country's development lies with its government and other national actors. Ownership is seen in a broad, inclusive perspective that, in addition to

state actors, includes relevant parts of civil society. Development cooperation must place local ownership of development at its core.

To contribute to sustainable peace in Sudan, Sweden will promote more inclusive peace processes at national and local level, and a more inclusive society. Development cooperation should support peace negotiations and political processes, as well as activities to address the root causes of conflict and insecurity in Sudan. Activities should take account of developments in the surrounding region and cross-border challenges, and contribute to increased political and economic integration in the region. Confidence-building measures, such as support to a free, independent and accountable media, and reconciliation efforts may form part of the activities. Sweden will give special priority to providing women and young people with further opportunities to contribute to a peaceful and inclusive society, based on Security Council resolutions 1325 and 2250. To ensure that women and young people can participate in a meaningful way in peace processes, additional measures with regards to their rights, representation and resources are required. Activities should contribute to the ongoing work on children and armed conflict in Sudan.

Sweden will contribute to strengthened respect for human rights in Sudan, focusing particularly on women's and children's rights. Activities should focus on particularly neglected areas, such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, and contribute to upholding human rights for particularly vulnerable people. Development cooperation should increase capacity and expertise on human rights in civil society and public administration. Sweden will promote strengthened respect for the rule of law and increased public participation in political processes. Development cooperation should help women, men, girls and boys to gain access to effective law enforcement agencies and improve their opportunities to participate in decision-making at both national and local level. The widespread impunity and lack of transparency should be countered, and the conditions for accountability strengthened.

To contribute to environmentally and climate-resilient sustainable development in Sudan, Sweden will also promote more sustainable use of natural resources. Activities will strengthen resilience to crises, disasters and climate change by contributing to increased and more sustainable agricultural production, including forestry and fishery, more sustainable water resource

management and sanitation, and increased production and access to renewable energy. Development cooperation is expected to contribute to improved food security and better nutrition, particularly for women and children, and to economic growth that benefits the entire population. Sweden should strengthen efforts to ensure sustainable agriculture, including in areas that have taken in many internally displaced people, refugees or migrants. Activities should take account of the fact that rural populations are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including involuntary migration. Development cooperation should contribute to increasing the capacity of civil society and public administration. Activities should contribute to creating platforms for civil society organisations to influence developments in Sudan. Sweden should promote better conditions for the implementation of Sudan's nationally determined contribution within the framework of the Paris Agreement, and for Sudan to be able to apply for and obtain funding from international environment and climate funds.

Sweden's development cooperation with Sudan will contribute to increased resilience to crises and disasters. Activities should include contributions at national and local level to adapt structures and resource allocation to

the prevailing insecurity, and ensure preparedness to rapidly increase forms of support that directly address the needs of households or individuals.

The focus of activities and the specific context will govern the choice of partners and forms of cooperation. The main partners for Sweden's development cooperation with Sudan should be international and multilateral organisations, and civil society organisations. Cooperation with public administration may be carried out to a limited extent as a complement to work with other actors. Experience has shown that the chances of success are greatest when change agents at national and local level are included and strengthened. Development cooperation will support reform-oriented forces seeking peaceful and sustainable societal solutions, promote greater respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and support greater gender equality. Exchange between Swedish and Sudanese agencies and actors may be considered in order to support for capacity development. Opportunities to work with the private sector will be examined, particularly regarding agriculture and renewable energy.

Development cooperation with Sudan calls for a conflict-sensitive approach, flexibility and perseverance. Great importance should be given to

following developments in Sudan and the surrounding region. A level of preparedness must be maintained to quickly reassess or adapt activities based on new conditions, redistribute aid between the various areas of activity, and increase support to effective initiatives. A level of preparedness must also be maintained to conduct strategic initiatives of limited scope in critical phases. Against this background, consultation between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is important.

Sweden will promote coherent and effective development and donor coordination in Sudan, including by leading or taking part in relevant coordinating groups. Sida should prioritise development and analysis of new methods for cooperation between development actors and humanitarian actors to promote the UN's and the donor community's New Way of Working. Sweden should play an active role in EU aid coordination and possible joint programming. Sida should examine the possibility of carrying out initiatives funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), based on Sweden's development policy priorities.

Synergies must be harnessed between the different areas of the strategy and with activities within the framework of other strategies, such as the strategy for sustaining peace, the regional strategy for sub-Saharan Africa, the regional strategy for sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the strategy for humanitarian aid. Sida is to ensure that an integrated approach is taken to development cooperation with Sudan. Sweden's support, including through multilateral organisations, should form a basis for dialogue.

The strategy will be followed up according to the principles and processes stated in the Government guidelines for strategies in Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Evaluations are to be considered an integral part of continuous follow-up and be conducted as necessary. Various performance monitoring methods are to be applied, using both qualitative and quantitative performance data.



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