Sweden ILO Cooperation

Sweden is one of the founding Member States of the ILO, and is a key partner in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Sweden has ratified four Protocols and 93 Conventions, which include the eight Fundamental Conventions, the four prioritized Governance Conventions, and 81 Technical Conventions.

Sweden’s contribution to the ILO

Sweden strongly supports ILO’s efforts to provide decent work and better living standards for women and men in developing countries. Sweden contributes to the regular budget of the ILO and its development cooperation programmes. Voluntary contributions are mainly channeled through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The Sida-ILO Partnership Programme 2018-20 provides voluntary funding in the form of un-earmarked contributions and lightly earmarked support for thematic areas (such as youth employment and gender equality). The partnership builds on close alignment between the development cooperation priorities of Sweden and the ILO’s objective of realizing decent work and social justice for all.

Sweden’s Development Cooperation

Drawing on its broader feminist foreign policy, the stated aim of Sweden’s development cooperation is to create the preconditions for people living under poverty and oppression to better their own lives. For this purpose, Swedish development aid is primarily focused on eight areas, which are:

- Human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.
- Gender equality.
- The environment and climate change, and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Peace and security.
- Inclusive economic development.
- Migration and development.
- Health equity.
- Education and research.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is a government agency working on behalf of the Swedish parliament and government.

Sweden focuses on development cooperation in the following partner countries:

- Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iraq, Myanmar, Palestine.
- Europe: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.
- Latin America: Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala.

Sweden allocated 1.01% of its gross national income to official development assistance in 2017, which amounted to US$ 5.5 billion. In 2016, 28.8% of Sweden’s bilateral support was channelled through voluntary contributions to multilateral organizations, including the ILO.

Sweden’s ILO strategy, decided by the government in October 2017, forms the basis for Sweden’s overall collaboration with the ILO.

* Source: Development Co-operation Report 2018, OECD
The Sida-ILO Partnership Programme contributes to the achievement of ILO results through a combination of innovative funding modalities. These include: fully un-earmarked voluntary core contributions (RBSA) and lightly earmarked thematic funding to promote employment, the protection of workers, environmental sustainability and gender equality.

Beyond the Partnership, Swedish Embassies around the world engage with ILO offices for specific projects in line with bilateral Swedish and ILO priorities.

### Building human and institutional capacities in Morocco

The ILO supported the formulation of the national employment strategy (2015-2025) and contributed to the preparation of its implementation plan (2017-2021). At the territorial level, three regional employment plans have been developed and validated. In continuing its efforts, the ILO is currently supporting the implementation of the employment policy at regional level and supporting better coordination and synergies between the national and territorial levels as well as the involvement of different stakeholders.

The current ILO intervention gives high importance to the strengthening of human and institutional capacities at national and regional level, in order to promote and monitor the implementation of the regional action plan which focuses on youth and women.

### Protecting indigenous women and men in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, the ILO has built the capacities of indigenous and tea workers in plantations and in the urban informal economy to defend their rights and act collectively and produced evidence on working conditions that can serve as the basis for advocacy. The ILO has continued to support the Bangladesh Cha Shramik Union (Tea Workers’ Union) and implemented a series of awareness raising and capacity building activities. A series of meetings between the Bangladesh Cha Shramik Union and the Bangladeshiyo Cha Sangsad (Tea Association) culminated in the signature of a preliminary MoU encompassing agreements on 23 demands, including improvements in wages and maternity benefits. This represents a milestone towards ensuring the fundamental rights of tea workers.

### Decent Work and ‘Just Transition’ in Ghana

Work in Ghana started with a national dialogue on just transition to environmental sustainability and decent work. Building on the recommendations of that national dialogue, the ILO is focusing on two work streams: 1) supporting the integration of decent work and just transition dimensions in Ghana’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on climate change in view of its revision by 2020; and 2) the development of a strategy to implement the green job goals of Ghana’s National Employment Policy.

### Women at Work Centenary Initiative

In the context of the Women at Work Centenary Initiative work is ongoing in the area of pay equity and care economy. A website with relevant information on the Equal Pay International Coalition has been designed and the report on “Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work” will soon be disseminated in French and Spanish with Ministries of employment, environment, and social partners in Ghana were held to agree on the objectives and expected results for implementation in 2018-19.
Voluntary core funding (RBSA) spotlight: Investing in decentralised road maintenance to improve and sustain rural access in Nepal

A major development challenge in Nepal is the lack of maintenance of rural roads, often leading to economic and social isolation of communities, especially during rainy season. To respond to this challenge, ILO used RBSA funding to develop a rural road maintenance pilot project using labour intensive approaches in three districts - Kasti, Rupendehi and Palpa. The pilot showed that rural roads could be maintained in a low cost way, while at the same time providing decent jobs and income for the local communities.

The Government of Nepal and the World Bank, resulting in a five year, Strengthening National Rural Transport Program (SNRTP), with a total budget of USD 175.4 million, acknowledged the success of ILO’s pilot intervention. This programme covers 33 districts for year-round maintenance of rural road access in nearly half of Nepal’s rural localities as well as the creation of decent jobs for thousands of poor women and men who had previously lacked sufficient livelihoods.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON SWEDEN’S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILO

Sweden funds the ILO through:

1.) Assessed contributions which are payable by all ILO Member States by virtue of their membership. In 2016-17, Sweden’s assessed contribution to the ILO’s regular budget exceeded US$7.2 million.

2.) Un-earmarked core voluntary contributions provided by 8 ILO donors, as a pool of flexible resources allocated by the ILO to strategic areas and emerging priorities. In 2016-17, Swedish contributions amounted to US$ 3 million.


Total voluntary contributions by Sweden to the ILO between 2013 and 2017 amounted to US$ 55.5 million.

SUPPORT BEYOND THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Bringing decent work to rural households in northern Afghanistan

The USD 7.6 million ‘Road to Jobs’ project leverages SIDA’s prior investments in the rural road network around Mazar-e-Sharif and aims to provide better access to markets, employment and income-generating opportunities for farmers, wage labourers, migrant workers and other vulnerable people in the area.

Over a period of three years, the R2J project has worked in six sub-sectors; grapes and raisin, cotton, poultry, dairy, almond and sheep and goats. Since inception, the R2J project has generated about 48,411 jobs, mobilizing a total of USD 2,128,702 through partnerships with about 20 private sector companies, government agencies and other development partners.

The intervention has also helped train over 1,300 women in business and built a cadre of certified entrepreneurship and business management trainers that have supported the growth of women entrepreneurship in Afghanistan.
Inclusive Growth through Decent Work in the Great Rift Valley

Sweden and the ILO signed a USD 4.87 agreement to support a project on Inclusive Growth through Decent Work in the Great Rift Valley. The agreement was signed with the objective of addressing developmental challenges through decent work and access to rights-based services among the rural population.

The Public-Private Development Partnership (PPDP) brings public, private and community stakeholders together with the aim to improve the living conditions in and around the Narok and Nakuru counties in Kenya. As education and training infrastructure is particularly scarce in the region, the partnership seeks to strengthen capacity and develop skills needed by the private sector in the area. The public sector will be engaged in the project as duty bearers and service providers of rights and services to the local community members, as well as providing contributions to technical and vocational trainings institutions and more.

Empowering women to unleash their potential in Somalia

Sida supports the Renewable Energy Skills Training and Women’s Economic Empowerment project with a contribution of USD 5.8 million. Expanding energy access in Somalia has the potential to increase the productivity and competitiveness of Somali businesses and attract investment. Economic empowerment gives women the independence, confidence, and ability to transform their lives. Developing renewable energy access and women’s economic empowerment is critical in building wealth, creating jobs, and unleashing the potential for innovation that attracts investment and promotes development.

Promoting decent job creation and economic transformation in Mozambique

Sida supports a major ILO project in Mozambique to implement the National Employment Policy (NEP). This project adopts a market systems approach towards the promotion of employment-creating investment, green jobs and sustainable enterprise development, as well as women’s economic empowerment.

The partnership between Sida, H&M and the ILO aims to improve industrial relations in the textile and garment industry in Myanmar and Ethiopia, and support the socially responsible production of garments for global markets. Governments, social partners and major industry stakeholders are supported to engage in social dialogue, as well as nurturing sound labour relations and collective bargaining.

At country-level, the ILO works with labour administrations and inspectorates to improve conciliation skills, clarify rules and procedures concerning industrial relations, collective bargaining agreements, grievance mechanisms, and more. This contributes to social and labour compliance through improved labour market governance, which allows the industry to expand in a socially sustainable manner and create decent jobs in the global textile and garment sector.