

KEY QUESTION

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Who are the main actors in Swedish development cooperation?

MFA decides on strategy, Sida executes

Currently, Prime Minister Stefan Löfvén leads a center-left minority coalition formed between the Social Democrats (S) and the Green Party (MP). As a minority coalition, the government is under great pressure from the opposition – particularly during budget negotiations – and will continue to be until the next general elections in 2018.

Since 2014, Margot Wallström (S) has served as Minister for Foreign Affairs (MFA). She previously worked as a member of the European Commission (1999-2009) and as the first-ever UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (2010-2012). The Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin (MP) heads the International Development Cooperation portfolio. She is a former Member of the European Parliament (2009-2014), and in May 2016, was elected as a joint-leader of the Green Party. Under her leadership, environmental issues play a particularly important role in Sweden's development policy.

Under the overall policy and decision-making authority of the Prime Minister, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) oversees development policy and financing, and decides on core funding allocations to multilateral organizations. Within the MFA, the 'Department for International Development Cooperation' is responsible for overall governance and evaluation of Swedish development cooperation. The department coordinates the development of the ODA budget. It drafts the appropriation letters for the institutions funded under the ODA framework, including Sweden's development agency Sida, which operates under the MFA. It also coordinates all thematic and strategy development for Sida.

Other relevant departments for policy-making within the MFA are the 'UN Policy Department', responsible for all foreign and development cooperation relating to multilateral support through UN organizations and thematic funds, and the 'Global Agenda Department', in charge of overall coordination within the framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Government Office's work on the Policy for Global Development. It also coordinates and develops the feminist foreign policy, including gender equality issues in development cooperation.

Sida manages and executes development policy implementation in cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs), consultants, and other government agencies. In 2017, Sida manages around 44% of Sweden's ODA budget (SEK20.1 billion, or US\$2.9 billion). Sida is managed by a governing board. Under its directives, the Director-General is responsible for Sida's operational activities. Following the appointment of Charlotte Petri Gornitza as the president of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD in July 2016, Sida appointed Lennart Båge to stand in as Acting Director-General. As of February 2017, Sweden is working towards recruiting a long-term appointment. Sida has 782 employees, many of whom work at Swedish embassies, and 65% of which are women.

Sweden's state-owned investment fund, Swedfund, supports private-sector activities aimed at promoting sustainable economic development in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and industry. It is supervised by the Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation and provides risk capital and investment for projects that alleviate poverty in low-income countries.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a major role in Sweden's development assistance. In 2015, a fifth of the country's bilateral ODA was channeled through them. Sida has increased its engagement with Swedish CSOs as a way to identify new methods to deliver its bilateral programs and increase aid effectiveness. For example, Sida channels finance to organizations through 'challenge funds', which are focused on a desired development outcome.

SWEDEN'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SYSTEM

