

## KEY QUESTIONS

### the big six



#### How much ODA does Sweden provide?

##### **Sweden is the 6th largest donor in absolute terms and 1st in proportion to the size of its economy**

Sweden is the largest donor among members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in proportion to the size of its economy: net ODA stood at 1.04% of its GNI in 2018. This corresponds to US\$5.8 billion, sixth among DAC members (current prices). Sweden is committed to spend at least 1% of its GNI on ODA and has exceeded the UN's 0.7% target since 1975. Looking forward, the ODA budget is set to keep increasing due to Sweden's growing economy and its 1% ODA/GNI commitment. Numbers for 2018 are based on the new methodology for measuring ODA loans which the OECD DAC will apply to ODA reporting for 2018 onwards. Preliminary ODA figures for 2018 using this new methodology were first released in April 2019. This methodology, called 'grant-equivalent' methodology, provides a more accurate way to count donor efforts in concessional ODA loans because only the 'grant' portion of loans, expressed as a monetary value, is counted as ODA. This reform had no impact on Sweden's ODA volumes.

To allow for comparison overtime, the OECD still publishes net ODA disbursements according to the cash basis methodology. Between 2017 and 2018, net ODA went up by 4.5%, driven by higher level of core contributions to multilateral organizations. This follows an 11% increase between 2016 and 2017, due to higher levels of grants to Africa and to least-developed countries (LDC), as well as to increased contributions to international organizations. A peak in funding in 2015 (see chart) was due to extraordinarily high costs of hosting refugees in Sweden (US\$2.5 billion) and advanced payments to UN organiza-

tions and the Green Climate Fund, which also explain the notable decrease in 2016.

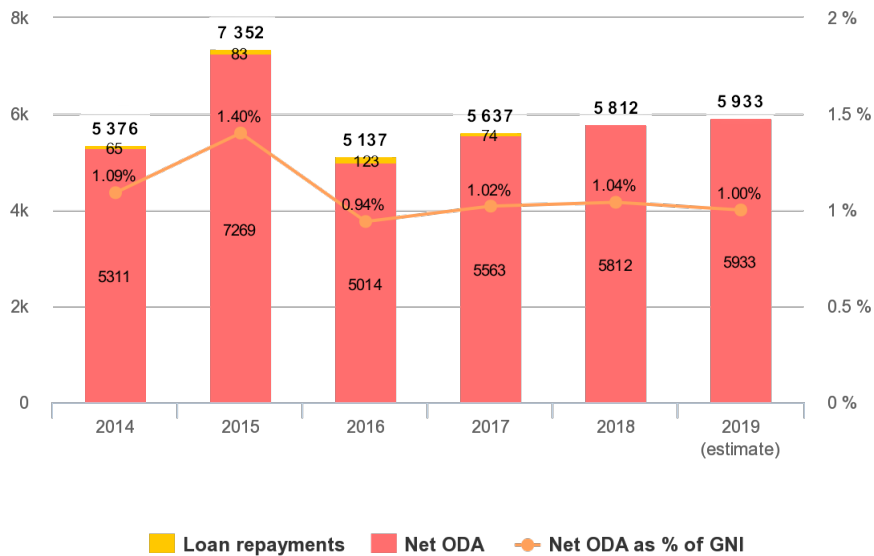
Between 2014 and 2017, costs of hosting refugees in Sweden accounted for a large share of the country's reported ODA. They peaked at US\$2.5 billion in 2015 (34%), before gradually falling back to US\$522 million in 2018 (9% of total ODA, their lowest level since 2013). To cover the costs of hosting refugees in the country, Sweden partly uses funds that fall under its 1% commitment for development funding. According to the initial budget for 2019, they were set at SEK2.2 billion (US\$258 million, or 4% of total ODA). In April 2019, the government approved a SEK700 million (US\$82 million) increase in the funds taken from ODA to cover the costs of hosting refugees in Sweden, bringing them to SEK2.9 billion (US\$340 million). These costs are likely to remain very low in coming years.

Following the general elections in September 2018, negotiations to form a government succeeded in January 2019. The Social Democrats continue to lead a minority coalition with the Green Party, and are now supported by the Center and the Liberal Parties. Flagship issues of the previous government, including the feminist foreign policy and the fight against climate change, will continue to be prioritized.

The 2019 budget sets ODA at an all-time high: SEK50.7 billion, or US\$5.9 billion. The 2019 budget currently in place, approved by Parliament in December 2018 (at a time where negotiations to form a government were still ongoing), was put forward by the Moderate and Conservative parties together, which are now in the opposition.

### SWEDEN'S GROSS/NET ODA DISBURSEMENTS

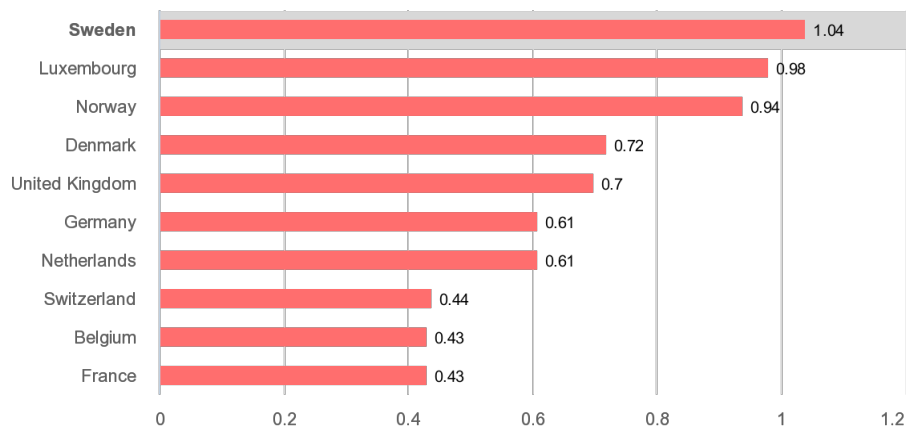
US\$ millions; in 2017 prices



OECD table DAC1. 2018 number according to preliminary data (April 2019).

### TOP 10 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2018

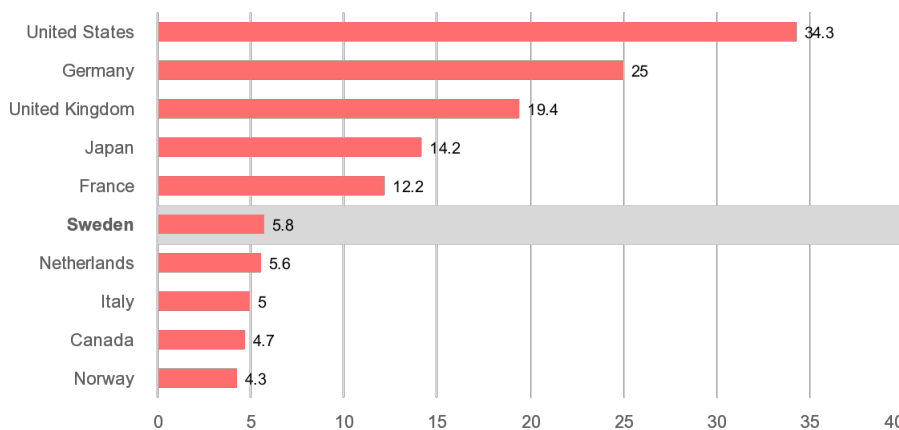
Total ODA as a % of GNI



OECD DAC preliminary data (April 2019).

### TOP 10 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2018

Total ODA Disbursements; US\$ billions; in current prices



OECD DAC preliminary data (April 2019).

#### Further information: 2017 prices

To compare ODA levels in any given year with ODA levels provided in other years, figures need to be adjusted to account for inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. The OECD provides data that accounts for these fluctuations. In this profile, and unless indicated otherwise, figures are stated using 2017 prices.