

KEY QUESTIONS

the big six

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Who are the main actors in Swedish development cooperation?

MFA decides on strategy, Sida executes

Currently, acting Prime Minister Stefan Löfvén leads the caretaker Swedish government while a new government is being formed. Inconclusive elections on September 9, 2018 left the two main political blocs almost tied. Difficult coalition negotiations are likely to follow and a new government is not expected to be formed before December 2018.

Since 2014, Margot Wallström (S) serves 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 MFA oversees development policy and financing and decides on core funding allocations to multilateral organizations. Within the MFA, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin (MP), from the Green Party, heads development policy. Under her leadership, environmental issues play an important role in Sweden's development policy. Key development-related units within the MFA include the 'Department for International Development Cooperation', which is responsible for overall governance and evaluation of Swedish development cooperation. It also 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 support through UN organizations and thematic funds, and the 'Global Agenda Department', which coordinates the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Government Office's work on Policy for Global Development. The Global Agenda Department also coordi-

nates 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 2018, Sida manages over half of Sweden's ODA budget (SEK24.8 billion, or US\$2.9 billion), in accordance with the strategies developed by Sida and the MFA for each thematic or geographic area. Sida is managed by a governing board, appointed by the Swedish government. Besides its Director-General (Carin Jämtin since June 2017), who is responsible for Sida's operational activities, the board includes members of public administrations, of the private sector, and of the academia. Sida has 782 employees, many of whom work at Swedish embassies, and 65% of whom 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 2016, a fifth of the country's bilateral ODA was channeled through them (27%), which is above the average of 16% among members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC). 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

