



Ministry for Foreign Affairs

## Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Kenya 2021–2025

### 1 Direction

The objective of Sweden's international development cooperation is to create conditions to improve the lives of people living in poverty and oppression. Swedish development cooperation is based on the principles of aid and development effectiveness, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

The strategy is applicable from 2021 to 2025 and comprises SEK 1.75 billion.

This strategy directs the use of funds under appropriation item 1:1.9 'Africa' in the appropriation directions for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for each budget year.

Activities will contribute to the following objectives

#### **Human rights, democracy, the rule of law and gender equality**

- Strengthened respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, including reduced corruption
- Greater gender equality, including reduced gender-based violence, and access to, and respect for, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

#### **Environment, climate and sustainable use of natural resources**

- Reduced climate impact and increased resilience to climate change

- Sustainable management and use of natural resources, including biodiversity
- Increased capacity to provide sustainable public services

### **Inclusive economic development**

- Improved conditions for productive employment and decent work, and for free and fair trade
- Strengthened systems for better access to social security

## **2 Country context**

Kenya's economic growth in recent years has contributed to its reclassification as a lower middle-income country. There are good prospects for broader and more self-sustaining relations. In recent years, the Kenyan Government has successfully taken measures to attract investment, eliminate trade barriers and enter into trade agreements. However, corruption continues to hinder Kenya's development and economic inequality is rising. COVID-19 has severely impacted Kenya's economy and many jobs have been lost. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank anticipate a slow recovery. Both youth unemployment and underemployment are high, and are factors contributing to increased radicalisation among young people. Women have poorer access to productive employment than men and are less able to recover from shocks. Almost 80 per cent of Kenya's population is living below or just above the multidimensional poverty line, with large regional variation. Poverty is particularly widespread in the northern parts of the country, where most of the country's 500 000 refugees are living in camps that have housed many of them for decades.

Space for political and civil rights has shrunk in recent years and human rights violations have increased, including through the authorities' use of violence, torture, and extrajudicial executions by the authorities. Women's and girls' enjoyment of human rights, representation, and access to resources is restricted by local traditions and customs, and lengthy court proceedings. Civil society is broad and multifaceted but its space to operate is heavily impacted by the political landscape. Elite rule and clientelism restrict the democratic space.

Agriculture provides livelihoods for a majority of the rural population. Climate change, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and

unsustainable resource management, leads to food insecurity and resource scarcity in large parts of the country. These are also contributing causes of conflicts, especially in rural areas. Recently, Kenya has demonstrated higher ambitions regarding improving marine environments and strengthening the blue economy. Rapid urbanisation poses a serious challenge to the ability of cities and urban areas to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

### **3 Activities**

Sida will carry out, monitor and report on activities in accordance with the Government's guidelines for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance strategies (UD2017/21053). The guidelines state inter alia that activities will be actively directed towards achieving the objectives and that the actual results should be monitored based on the objectives. The annual strategy report will be comprehensive and among other things include a presentation, analysis and assessment of the results of the activities in relation to the defined objectives. Results information will be used for decision-making, learning, accountability and ensuring transparency for the general public. Monitoring will produce reliable and useful information about results in both the short term and the long term by using both qualitative and quantitative information, where possible. The follow-up of results will primarily establish whether the activities made a difference, how and for whom. Follow-up based on existing conditions will determine the extent to which development cooperation made a difference.

Sweden's development cooperation contributes to sustainable development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, the financing for development commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The activities' contribution will be particularly relevant to the following sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda: no poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), good health and well-being (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), life on land (SDG 15), peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). Strategy reports to the Government will include references to how activities contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in relation to the strategy's priorities. As a whole, Swedish development

cooperation will contribute to poverty reduction in the country, better conditions for democratic development and respect for human rights.

When implementing the strategy, Sida will lay the foundation for broader and more self-sustaining relations between the countries. Conditions for domestic resource mobilisation and international trade and investment will continue to be strengthened, as will partnerships that can continue without development cooperation funding, such as partnerships with the private sector and national institutions. Measures to promote institution-building, capacity development and exchanges of experience will continue to be integrated into these efforts. Sida will draw on the Swedish resource base to increase and deepen cooperation. Where relevant, the potential of digital transformation will be harnessed as a tool for achieving the objectives. Innovative instruments will be further developed to attract investment and innovation, including in the areas of environment and climate change. A broad range of actors will be included, on the basis that they will effectively contribute to long-term sustainable results. The State is considered an important agent of change and conditions for continued cooperation exist.

Activities will contribute to strengthening public institutions and making them more inclusive, transparent and accountable. Support to civil society has an important role to play in increasing the social participation of poor and vulnerable people, and to strengthen freedom of expression. This may include support to agents of change and culture. Sweden will contribute to strengthening the conditions for democratic, free and fair elections. Anti-corruption efforts will be integrated into activity implementation, focusing on the local level. This may include contributions to the decentralisation process and reduced concentration of power through cooperation with the counties.

Gender equality promotion will highlight and deepen activities that contribute to strengthening respect for, and increasing access to, SRHR and to combating gender-based violence.

Activities will contribute to reduced climate impact and strengthened resilience to climate change. Activities will also contribute to increasing the capacity for conservation and restoration of biodiversity and its ecosystem services, and the sustainable management and use of terrestrial and marine natural resources. Priority will be given to investments that contribute to

protecting and conserving biodiversity while bringing benefits to people living in poverty.

Activities may contribute to enhancing capacity to provide sustainable and climate-resilient public services such as water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management, renewable energy and energy efficiency. If possible, Sweden's support should be catalytic and innovative. Support to improve local governance and institutions can be included.

Inclusive economic development will be promoted – including better conditions for productive employment, decent work and greater economic empowerment – for example, through social dialogue. A specific focus will be placed on women, young people, and marginalised groups, including refugees. Activities will promote a circular economy that limits the impacts of climate change, improves the environment, competitiveness and economic growth, and creates green jobs. Swedish support will contribute to increased sustainability, productivity, and commercialisation of small-scale agriculture and forestry, and to food security. Sweden will contribute to strengthened conditions for free and fair trade, with increased access to domestic, regional and global markets, financial inclusion, vocational education and training, and skills development.

Sweden's development cooperation will be relevant and effective. An integrated approach to all Swedish support to Kenya will be ensured. The linkages between humanitarian assistance, long-term development cooperation and peacebuilding will be harnessed. Synergies will be sought between the strategy areas and with activities within the framework of other relevant Swedish strategies for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

Sweden's development cooperation will be adapted to prevailing circumstances and will be flexible and effective.

Sweden will promote coherent and effective development and aid coordination in the country, not least through active participation in EU Joint Programming and in consultation with relevant multilateral actors. Mobilising other financial resources should be explored.

*This is a translation of a Swedish Government decision. In the event of any inconsistencies or discrepancy between this version and the Swedish original, the latter will prevail.*