

# **Strategy for Sweden's cooperation with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria 2019–2023**

## **1 Scope of the strategy**

This strategy will underpin Sweden's cooperation with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the period 2019–2023. The strategy determines priorities and forms of cooperation for Sweden's membership of and partnership with the Global Fund.

The strategy is based on the Global Goals in the 2030 Agenda and, within the framework of activities, is to contribute to achieving these. The strategy is guided by Sweden's Policy for Global Development and its overall objective of contributing to equitable and sustainable global development<sup>1</sup>, and takes its starting point from the Policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance (Govt. communication 2016/17:60<sup>2</sup> (referred to below as the Policy Framework)). Sweden's strategy for multilateral development policy is an overarching policy document for Sweden's cooperation with multilateral organisations and sets out the parameters of the methodology in this strategy.<sup>3</sup>

The strategy relates to the Global Fund's mandate, strategy and strategic framework. An organisational assessment of the Global Fund was conducted in autumn 2018 within the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs). The implementation of the strategy is to take into account current information on cooperation with the Global Fund contributed by Swedish missions abroad and government agencies in Sweden. The strategy comprises funds as authorised by the Riksdag and the Government's appropriation directions to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The strategy has been developed in accordance with the Government's guidelines for strategies in Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance (UD2017/21053/IU)<sup>4</sup>.

## **2 The Global Fund's remit and activities**

### *2.1 The Global Fund's mandate*

The Global Fund's mandate is to mobilise, manage and disburse resources for

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/proposition/gemensamt-ansvar-sveriges-politik-for-global\\_GQ03122](https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/proposition/gemensamt-ansvar-sveriges-politik-for-global_GQ03122)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/skrivelse/2016/12/skr-20161760/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.regeringen.se/land--och-regionsstrategier/2018/01/strategi-for-multilateral-utvecklingspolitik/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.regeringen.se/land--och-regionsstrategier/2018/01/riktlinjer-for-strategier-inom-svenskt-utvecklingssamarbete-och-humanitart-bistand/>

strategic investments to prevent, treat and reduce the spread of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, and in this way contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Goal 3 concerning good health and well-being. In practice, investments to combat these diseases also clearly contribute to gender equality (Goal 5), as particularly HIV/AIDS and malaria are major causes of ill health and death among women, girls and boys. Furthermore, the Global Fund's work contributes to ending poverty (Goal 1), reducing inequalities (Goal 10), peaceful and inclusive societies (Goal 16) and global sustainable development (Goal 17).

The Global Fund is a funding mechanism rather than a development agency.

The projects and programmes financed by the Global Fund are implemented by various partners at country level, such as governments, multilateral organisations and civil society. Through its work, the Global Fund contributes to improved basic health (sub-objective 4 in the aid policy framework).

## *2.2 Strategic plan*

In 2016, the Global Fund's board adopted the strategy for 2017–2022, 'Investing to end epidemics'. This is the first strategy adopted by the Global Fund to be based on the 2030 Agenda. The strategy rests on a framework of four goal areas:

- Maximising the impact on AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria
- Building resilient and sustainable systems for health
- Promoting and protecting human rights and gender equality
- Mobilising increased resources

The four goal areas are, in turn, divided into several results areas and are accompanied by a separate results framework with indicators for monitoring activities. Activities rest on four overriding principles: partnership, ownership in the countries, results-based financing and transparency.

## *2.3 Organisational assessment*

In autumn 2018, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs carried out an organisational assessment of the Global Fund. The conclusion of this assessment was that the Global Fund continues to be a highly relevant partner for Sweden, as HIV, malaria and tuberculosis continue to be significant causes of premature death and illness in the world's poorest countries. The results to be achieved thanks to resources from the Global Fund are expected to contribute substantially to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly to Goals 3 and 5. In addition, the Fund is deemed to be relatively efficient and to have satisfactory reporting of results, with room for improvement within governance, and the environment and climate.

### 3 Focus and thematic priorities

#### 3.1 Focus

Through dialogue and financial contributions, Sweden will work to ensure that the Global Fund achieves its overall remit and implements its strategic plan on the basis of the 2030 Agenda and Sweden's priority issues. The following thematic areas will be prioritised in Sweden's cooperation with the Global Fund during the period 2019–2023:

- fewer new cases of HIV, malaria and tuberculosis, focusing particularly on prevention, key populations<sup>4</sup> and strengthening national health systems;
- human rights, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights; and
- a national perspective and the transition from international to national funding.

#### 3.2 Thematic priorities

##### *3.2.1 Fewer new cases of HIV, malaria and tuberculosis, focusing particularly on prevention, key groups and strengthening national health systems.*

Equitable health and gender equality form one of the thematic areas highlighted in the Swedish development assistance policy framework. According to this, Sweden will contribute to efficient national health systems and institutions, and defend all people's right to health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and maternal and newborn care. Special emphasis is to be placed on key populations.

This prioritisation is well in line with the implementation of target 3.3 of the 2030 Agenda, which is to eradicate a number of epidemics, including AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030. In practice, this is also contributing towards the implementation of the targets mentioned above.

The Global Fund has contributed to major progress in terms of improving access to medicine and treatment for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, thereby improving survival rates. However, the Global Fund should work even more strategically and systematically to strengthen and integrate its activities into national health systems, particularly as regards the quality of content and procedures. Higher priority needs to be given to preventive work to reduce the number of new cases of the three diseases, in particular to prevent HIV and tuberculosis among women and girls, who continue to have a considerably greater incidence of HIV (and/or prevalence) than young men, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

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<sup>4</sup> Key populations here means: men who have sex with men, transgender people, people involved in prostitution, people who inject drugs, people living with HIV, and young women and girls.

Sweden is to take action so that:

- the Board systematically follows up targets and effects of the work against the three diseases and for improved health systems;
- the Global Fund gives higher priority to preventive work via strengthened capacity and resource allocation;
- the Global Fund gives special priority to work with women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa, who continue to run a considerably higher risk than young men of becoming infected with HIV; and
- the Global Fund strengthens the integration of its support into existing national health systems, thereby contributing to increasing national ownership, particularly as regards sexual and reproductive health and rights.

*3.2.2 Human rights, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights*

In the Policy Framework, the rights perspective is one of two overarching perspectives that must be integrated throughout Swedish development cooperation. Moreover, the rights perspective is based on binding international law conventions and means that human rights and democracy are fundamental to development. This prioritisation is in line with the implementation of previously mentioned sustainability goals, including target 3.7 of the 2030 Agenda on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care by 2030.

Discrimination and marginalisation remain major challenges for key populations, other risk groups and those who have the diseases, particularly HIV and tuberculosis. The Global Fund's current strategy is very clear in its aims for human rights and gender equality, and these areas form one of four strategic target areas.

Sweden is to take action so that:

- the Global Fund increases investment in and improves integration of human rights and gender equality in its programmes; and
- the Global Fund works actively to ensure that key populations enjoy sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and that LGBTI people enjoy their human rights.

*3.2.3 The national perspective and the transition from international to national funding*

The Global Fund has strategies for how a sustainable transition from international support to domestic funding is to take place, in conjunction with the attainment by the countries of specified criteria for transition. However, the strategies do not include sufficient transition plans, including national commitments to budgets for the continued funding of important medicines, services and products. There is a risk that insufficient

funding will have an adverse effect on people living with the diseases and also that support to politically sensitive activities will disappear in the absence of external funding.

Sweden is to take action so that:

- the Global Fund collaborates with other institutions (the World Bank, WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and others) to support the countries' development of health care funding strategies, including funding solutions and transition plans, and that the effects of transition are followed up over the long term in the countries.

#### **4 Priorities concerning the organisation's working methods**

In the Government Offices' organisational assessment, the Global Fund is considered to be a mature organisation with a high capacity to contribute to good development results at country level. The organisation also has the ability to absorb considerable financing and translate this into concrete results. During the latest strategic period, the Global Fund prioritised the development of the results framework, and considerable progress has been made in this respect. There is, however, scope for further improvement of the Global Fund's results focus in terms of analysis and reporting.

On the basis of the Government Offices' most recent organisational assessment, the Government intends to prioritise the following issues concerning the Global Fund's working methods:

##### *4.1 Effective governance and organisation*

After the World Bank, the Global Fund is the world's largest financing mechanism and, in 2018, received the second largest amount of core support from Sweden, after the World Bank. In light of the Government Offices' organisational assessment, Sweden deems that there is still room for improvements regarding operational planning, budgeting and the follow up of activities and funds, as well as the efficiency of the Board's work. Sweden also wants to see improved understanding and analysis of administrative costs for activities, as well as a clarification of the Global Fund's added value in relation to other actors.

Sweden is to take action so that:

- the link between different policy documents becomes clearer, above all for operational planning, budgeting and reporting;
- the Global Fund reports administrative costs for activities in a transparent manner;
- the Board develops its working methods, becomes more strategic and, above all, focuses on the overall results; and
- the Global Fund follows up the review made of sustainability aspects of activities and initiatives with appropriate measures, such as a sustainability policy.

##### *4.2 The Global Fund as part of the global health architecture*

Good initiatives for improved coordination and increased synergies have been taken in recent years, including together with Gavi and the UN system. However, major

challenges remain for the Global Fund, including strengthening cooperation at country level and contributing towards public goods within the health systems, such as information systems, data collection and systems for logistics. The relationship and collaboration with the UN at country level are an important area, in particular with UNAIDS and WHO.

Sweden is to take action so that:

- the Global Fund works in accordance with its mandate, but also contributes towards the overall global health systems, in close dialogue with partners at country level;
- the Global Fund develops its working relationships with the UN system to ensure that the best possible evidence, technical advice and strategic opportunities form the basis for activities;
- the Global Fund collaborates to a higher degree with other organisations in the global health system, including in the development of shared reporting cycles and performance indicators, and that this is reflected in the results framework for follow-up; and
- civil society continues to be given scope for participation in the national work and dialogue when the Global Fund is involved.

## **5 Advocacy and forms for collaboration**

### *5.1 Advocacy*

Sweden's long-term and comprehensive support to the Global Fund provides good opportunities for influence and advocacy in the work of the Board and in dialogue with the Global Fund. The main channels for advocacy outside the work of the Board consist of a continuous and consistent bilateral dialogue with the Global Fund on both the political and official levels. Platforms for dialogue include the work of the Board through the Point Seven constituency and coordinated work with other constituencies and the EU (also at country level).

### *5.2 Forms for collaboration*

The Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) has the main responsibility for Sweden's relations with the Global Fund. Strategic, coherent and effective advocacy requires close cooperation and information exchange with all the relevant agencies (especially the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations at Geneva, Sida, the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and other relevant missions abroad) and with other actors in Sweden, such as civil society organisations, academia and business. The overarching division of roles and responsibilities within the Government Offices, and between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sida, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the missions abroad, in relation to the Global Fund is set out in Sweden's strategy for multilateral development policy.

Organisation consultations on the Global Fund are held twice yearly, with the aim of sharing experiences from cooperation and dialogue and strengthening coordinated and strategic action. The organisation consultations are convened by the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs), which invites representatives of relevant ministries, Sida, the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN and other relevant agencies in Sweden and abroad to attend.

## **Follow-up**

The primary results follow-up is conducted in relation to the Global Fund's strategic plan and its separate strategic framework.

The strategy is operationalised in a joint annual work plan for the Swedish actors. The work plan specifies how the year's activities will contribute to achievement of the strategy's goals and the division of work and responsibilities between the Government Offices (Ministry for Foreign Affairs), Sida and Sweden's missions abroad. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for the development and update of the work plan in consultation with the relevant agencies.

The next organisational assessment of the Global Fund is to be conducted ahead of the upcoming strategy period and by 2023 at the latest.