

# SWEDEN

DONOR PROFILE 2023

UNITED  
FOR  
GLOBAL  
MENTAL  
HEALTH

# SWEDEN

## Key facts:

%GNI/ODA 2022	2022 ODA	2021 DAMH
0.9%	US \$ 5.5 billion	US \$390,000

Sweden is the world's tenth largest bilateral donor in absolute terms, with ODA at US\$5.5 billion in 2021 . Sweden is, however, the second largest donor (behind Luxembourg) in proportion to the size of its economy: the country spent 0.9% of its gross national income (GNI) on official development assistance (ODA) in 2022.

Since 1975, Sweden has exceeded the UN's 0.7% target for the ratio of ODA-to-GNI. Since 2008, it has maintained its long-term commitment to spending around 1% of its GNI on ODA.

Sweden's [2016 Aid Policy Framework](#) is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has eight areas of focus: 1) human rights, democracy, and the rule of law; 2) gender equality; 3) the environment and climate change, and the sustainable use of natural resources; 4) peace and security; 5) inclusive economic development; 6) migration and development; 7) health equity; and 8) education and research.

Sweden has a strong track record in gender equality. It was the first country to implement a [Feminist Foreign Policy](#) in 2014, and has a strategy for sexual and reproductive health rights in sub-Saharan Africa.

## GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Sweden's [strategy for global development cooperation in sustainable social development](#), now extended to 2023, includes objectives around health systems; sexual and reproductive health and rights; water, sanitation and hygiene; health promotion; and preventing the adverse impacts of climate change and health. Whilst mental health is not explicitly mentioned, improving well-being throughout life is a key overarching aim.

Sweden has a high level of interest in global mental health and is a provider of development assistance to mental health (DAMH). The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) has in the past provided support to the [Gaza Community Mental Health Programme](#), which runs psychiatric clinics, and has funded the [Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative](#) (REPSSI) in South Africa (along with Switzerland).



## DOMESTIC MENTAL HEALTH

Sweden has a domestic [mental health strategy](#), and the Public Health Agency of Sweden is charged with mental health promotion nationally. The strategy focuses on five priority areas: 1.) mental health prevention and promotion; 2.) early intervention; 3.) vulnerable groups; 4.) participation and rights; 5.) organisation and leadership. In 2020, the Swedish government announced it will [update its national strategy for suicide promotion](#) and the promotion of good health. It has also pledged to incorporate the perspectives of the indigenous Sámi people in its strategy. It is the first time the mental health of the indigenous communities will be addressed in the national strategy. A refresh of the mental health strategy is due by September 2023.

## KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs ([MFA](#)) oversees development policy and financing. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency ([SIDA](#)) operates within the MFA, and is responsible for implementation. The [Department for International Development Cooperation](#) (within the MFA) is responsible for the evaluation of development coordination, and coordinates relevant strategies. The [Global Agenda Department](#) coordinates the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the feminist foreign policy.

## KEY DECISION MAKERS

Prime Minister: [Ulf Kristersson](#)

Minister for Foreign Affairs: [Tobias Billström](#)

Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade: [Johan Forssell](#)  
Sida's Lead Policy Specialist for Health and SRHR: [Asa Andersson](#)

Minister of Finance: [Elisabeth Svantesson](#)



Minister for Social Affairs and Public health: [Jakob Forssmed](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

According to [IHME](#) data, Sweden contributed US\$390,000 in DAMH in 2021, out of \$240 million for health overall. These figures are only representative of government resources. In 2020 around 56% of Sweden's ODA was bilateral. Calls for proposals can be found on the SIDA website [here](#).

Funds supported by Sweden:	
<a href="#">UNFPA</a>	UNFPA calls for the realization of reproductive rights for all.
<a href="#">Global Fund</a>	The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund strategy includes a significant commitment to mental health as a comorbidity and key point of intersectionality with the 3 diseases. You can apply for funding on their website.
<a href="#">GAVI</a>	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is focused on increasing the sustainable and equitable use of vaccines worldwide. The current strategy ( <a href="#">2021-2025</a> ) is narrowly defined with no reference to mental health.
<a href="#">Global Environment Facility</a>	The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral fund dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. They fund government projects.
<a href="#">Green Climate Fund</a>	The GCF is the world's largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways. Like the GEF, the GCF is also driven by government-identified national priorities.
<a href="#">Central Emergency Response Fund</a>	CERF enables humanitarian action by helping to kickstart relief efforts in a coordinated way when a new crisis emerges.
<a href="#">WHO</a>	The United Nations agency for health.
<a href="#">UN Women</a>	UN Women delivers programmes, policies and standards that uphold women's human rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to her full potential.



<a href="#">OCHA</a>	OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises.
<a href="#">UNRWA</a>	The UN organisation providing assistance and protection to Palestinian refugees.
<a href="#">UNDP</a>	UN lead agency on international development.
<a href="#">UNICEF</a>	UN agency for children.
<a href="#">UNHCR</a>	The UN refugee agency.
<a href="#">World Food Programme</a>	The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

## KEY RESOURCES

- [Sweden Mental Health Strategy](#) (in Swedish)
- [Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights \(SRHR\) in Sub-Saharan Africa for 2020-2026](#). MFA Sweden.
- [Strategy for Sweden's humanitarian aid provided through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\) 2017–2020](#)
- [Policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance](#) (2016).
- [Strategy for Sweden's global development cooperation in sustainable social development 2018–2022](#). MFA.
- OECD Mental Health Analysis Profiles (MhAPs) for [Sweden](#)
- WHO Mental Health Atlas 2020 [Country Profile](#).
- WHO [MiNDbank](#)
- OECD <https://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/Sweden-2019-Peer-Review-Main-Finding-s-and-Recommendations-English.pdf>
- SIDA website [calls and announcements page](#)

