



## Sweden's Report to the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)

Sweden reaffirms its commitment to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) as a non-legally binding, multilateral and 360-degree framework for cooperating on international migration. Sweden recognizes that there is a need for a comprehensive approach in order to maximize the overall benefits of migration, while addressing challenges in countries of origin, transit and destination.

This report presents examples of actions taken by Sweden to support the implementation of the GCM. The IMRF Progress Declaration is an important opportunity to summarize our collective lessons learnt since 2018 and look ahead towards even more effective, balanced and comprehensive implementation. Sweden especially welcomes that the declaration highlights, inter alia, the need for improved immigrant integration, strengthened partnerships and development cooperation between countries of origin and destination, as well as steps to counteract irregular migration and to facilitate readmission, return and sustainable reintegration.

A description of the methodology for preparing the review, as well as information of the policy and enabling environment, has already been provided by Sweden in its implementation report of 12 November 2020.<sup>1</sup>

### Progress on GCM objectives

Sweden's implementation of the GCM is grounded in the premise that, through existing national laws and policies on migration and related topics, the 23 objectives and a number of the more than 170 voluntary actions are already met on a national level. Furthermore, Sweden takes note of the GCM being firmly anchored in SDG 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda. With these two factors in

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[https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/sweden\\_gcm\\_implementation\\_report\\_nov\\_2020\\_final-r.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/sweden_gcm_implementation_report_nov_2020_final-r.pdf)

mind, Sweden's reporting on the implementation of the GCM will focus on our cooperation around GCM objectives with international partners, most notably in the context of low- and middle-income countries. In addition to the Government Offices, a number of implementing Government agencies, amongst them Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), the Swedish Migration Agency, the Swedish Public Employment Service and Statistics Sweden, are key stakeholders engaged in this process.

Sweden has identified the following GCM objectives as key priorities in our GCM implementation:

1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.
2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.
7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.
10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.
16. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.
19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.
20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.
21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration.
23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

By focusing the report on these objectives, the goal of the Swedish government is to help relevant stakeholders to draw on the GCM in their work. The aforementioned objectives may serve as a frame of reference for Swedish stakeholders to assess and plan their work with partner countries, while not excluding that consideration is given to any of the other GCM objectives.

## **Means of implementation**

### *Government Offices of Sweden*

Sweden's contribution to the GCM objectives covers various forms of support administered directly by the Government Offices, including the provision of core funding to multilateral organisations and development banks working on migration issues. For example, the Swedish government is the largest donor of voluntary contributions to IOM. In both 2020 and 2021, the organization was granted over US\$10 million. These contributions have been used to strengthen IOM's internal capacity to coordinate the UN Network on Migration, thus facilitating the UN system's support to Member States' implementation of the GCM. Sweden has also provided extensive core funding to organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Bank Group, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), thereby supporting the development of a range of policies, strategies, and projects for the implementation of the GCM in low- and middle-income countries.

The Swedish Government Offices use the GCM as a frame of reference when evaluating potential beneficiaries of grants for migration projects. An example of when the GCM was used to inform allocations was the decision to grant around US\$ 44 000 to IOM for the establishment and launch of the Global Policy Network on Ethical Recruitment which will provide member states with tools that will assist in the delivery of GCM objectives 6, 7, 19, and 23. Sweden has also provided around US\$ 870 000 to the UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support collective action fostering safe, orderly and regular migration.

Addressing trafficking in persons and all forms of exploitation is of high priority for Sweden. As an example, Sweden supports the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking (almost US\$ 500 000 in 2021). The fund supports projects and NGO's around the world. The focus in 2021 were projects targeting women and girls, refugees and migrants including IDPs. Targeted efforts also enabled support for victims of trafficking as a result of armed conflict, in transit areas and in areas of instability with a particular focus on Africa and the Middle East.

### *Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)*

Sida's development cooperation is governed by global, regional and country-specific strategies decided by the government. During 2018-2022, several of these strategies contained migration related objectives in line with the GCM,

including the strategies for global sustainable economic development, sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Iraq, DRC, and Bangladesh. Objectives cover aspects such as strengthening the human rights of migrants, promoting the positive contributions of migration to sustainable development, and facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, including return and sustainable reintegration. During 2018-2021 approximately 1% of Sida's annual budgets was allocated to activities with a direct aim to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, as defined by the DAC purpose code, amounting to a total of over US\$ 62 million.

In addition to activities covered by the DAC sector code, Sida also mainstreams migration into other development sectors such as environment and education, for instance by integrating migration as a factor in the agency's multidimensional poverty analysis. In many contexts where Sida operates, migrants, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons make up a significant part of the population. These groups are included in development cooperation when they are amongst the most vulnerable and the poorest. The impact of the Covid19-pandemic on migrants has also been integrated in some of Sida's multidimensional poverty analyses.

Sida has supported the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Burkina Faso to work with strengthened resilience to recurring climate shocks and improved capacity for food production among vulnerable households, including both internally displaced persons and recipient communities. In 2020, 14,100 vulnerable households received targeted cash support and many were given access to improved fodder and vaccination of livestock. These measures can mitigate push factors for involuntary migration. They are of relevance to objective 2.

Of relevance to objective 7 and 10, Sida supports IOMs project on Enhancing Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking in Asia (CREST). IOM has established partnerships with Asian companies to develop standards for ethical recruitment and employment of migrant workers to reduce exploitation, violations of rights and indebtedness. In line with objective 7, Sida has also supported migrant's rights in Guatemala together with Unicef. So called "Casa Migrante" or migrant's houses have been established where migrants can stay on the road and receive support for a shorter period of time. Furthermore, a model for consular protection and support for children and young people as well as psychosocial support for children deported alone from the USA has been developed, the latter also of relevance for objective 14 and 21.

Sida has since 2018 funded the African Union's flagship program Joint Labour Migration Program (JLMP) to strengthen the AU's capacity to handle labour migration on the continent. The project is being implemented within the East African Community (EAC), Ecowas and Comesa with the support of IOM and

ILO as implementing partners. The project is of relevance for objectives 5, 18 and 23.

Sida started a new collaboration with IFAD in 2020 in order to utilize and increase the development effects of remittances. IFAD's overall goal is to link its work on remittances to SDG and GCM implementation. The global support to the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) has contributed to knowledge materials on cash support and financial inclusion in humanitarian situations and included migrants in the work with access to financial services. The aim has been to see how financial services can be developed to be even more relevant for, for example, remittances, pension systems and employment generation, of relevance for objective 20 and 22.

Sida has also supported the right to equal and inclusive education for migrants, of relevance to objective 19. This has involved initiatives in low-income countries to increase access to education for migrants in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Education Cannot Wait (ECW), and with UNESCO. Sida also supports ILO's initiative Advancing the Decent Work Agenda in Northern Africa, which aims to result in more job opportunities, greater social protection and strengthened rights for migrant workers in the Middle East and North Africa.

Also regarding objective 19, Sida has since several years contributed with support to the Somalian diaspora and renewed support is available since 2019. The Swedish-Somali Business Program (SSBP) through Business Sweden and the NGO Forum Civ support investments in Somalia so that women and young people can find employment. The initiative aims to make it easier for the Swedish-Somali diaspora to invest in companies and thereby create jobs in Somalia. Companies have received support to start or expand SMEs. Sida also contributed to IOMs project to assist the Somali government's capacity in three sectors by recruiting members of the diaspora.

#### *The Swedish Migration Agency*

The Swedish Migration Agency is implementing a few cooperative projects on migration management with different partner countries. Ongoing, planned and finalized projects focus on, for example, return and reintegration issues, as well as capacity building and support to overall migration management. The Swedish Migration Agency has supported Turkish authorities linked to GCM objective 7. The project has, *inter alia*, worked with exchange of experience and education in the areas of asylum and LGBTQ issues as well as protection and gender-based violence (GBV) with the aim of strengthening the Turkish agency's ability to exercise rights-based authority. This has also been implemented in the light of the GCM objectives 12, 15 and 23.

During 2019-2020, the Swedish Migration Agency has also been a leading partner in a Twinning project with Serbia together with the Netherlands and Slovenia. In addition to developing legislation on asylum and legal migration, the twinning project will support Serbia in developing the possibilities of absorbing funds and developing cooperation with the EU. In the project, the Swedish Migration Agency has contributed to Serbia's harmonization process by evaluating and further adapting the current Serbian legislation to the applicable EU legislation in the area of asylum and migration.

Moreover, the Swedish Migration Agency has been a partner in the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN), which is an initiative from Member States to facilitate return and reintegration by creating common, knowledge-driven and innovative solutions based on a European approach in line with GCM Objective 21. Some of the main activities of the program are to offer reintegration support for return through a network of local actors, offer solutions to facilitate the return of vulnerable groups, as well as to exchange information and develop tools to improve return talks. Within the ERRIN program, the Swedish Migration Agency has also run its own sub-project European Return and Reintegration Network - Sustainable Reintegration in Afghanistan (ERRIN-SRA) with the aim of increasing capacity and creating a permanent network of local organizations that provide reintegration services. The project also aims to develop and provide educational initiatives in e.g. entrepreneurship to returnees and to increase the acceptance for return within the family and local community.

#### *The Swedish Public Employment Service*

The Swedish Public Employment Service has conducted several projects over recent years of relevance for GCM implementation. For instance, one project is running from 2016 to 2023 under the title International Training Programme for Productive Employment which contributes with establishing labour market information. Another project during 2019-2022 is about Career Guidance in Secondary Schools which partly provides support to the Cambodia National Employment Agency in labour market analysis and forecasting. Sweden also participates in the EU project MigrActions, from 2017 until February 2021. It promotes safe and legal labour migration between Senegal, Mauritania, Cap Verde, Togo and Ghana.

#### *Swedish Consumer Agency*

In December 2014, the Swedish Consumer Agency launched a price comparison site called Money from Sweden. Since then, the cost of sending SEK 3,000 from Sweden to abroad has been reduced by 2-4 percentage points on average, and 5-6 percentage points to some countries. It is mainly companies that have specialized in money transfer that account for the reduction, rather than banks. The reduced cost to the absolute poorest countries

represents the greatest improvement. The transfer fee can sometimes be below 0.5 per cent. This is in line with GCM objective 20.

### *Statistics Sweden*

Statistics Sweden has coordinated a regional project to improve migration statistics in Africa, in collaboration with the IOM and the AU statistical institute StatAfric. The project covered the period 2019-2021 and was funded by Sida. It had strong links to the 2030 Agenda and to GCM objective 1. The project aimed to increase the capacity to describe intracontinental migration covering regional economic communities (RECs), harmonize concepts and methods, strengthen the availability and awareness of gender-sensitive migration data and coordinate migration statistics. As a result of the project, RECs received support to identify regional indicators that can illuminate the contribution of migration to economic growth, integration and development within the regions.

Statistics Sweden is also a member of the UN expert group The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move. The main aim of its work is to improve statistics and data on migrating and forcibly displaced children with the aim of supporting evidence-based policy making that protects and empowers them. Overall, Statistics Sweden cooperates with partner countries and regional organizations in relation to GCM Objectives 1, 5, 6 and 8.

## **5. Summary and next steps**

Sweden's reporting on GCM implementation focuses on efforts to reach GCM objectives through cooperation with international partners. There is an overall identified need for increased support to low- and middle-income countries, including in the form of capacity building, to manage all dimensions of migration. The Swedish Government Offices and Government agencies contribute through projects aimed to directly support GCM objectives as well as by mainstreaming migration into a broader spectrum of activities.

In view of areas in which Member States would benefit from additional support in implementing GCM, the United Nations Network on Migration is already bringing together clusters of countries with relatively developed migration systems and similar approaches to migration and development for informal discussions. The ongoing exchange of ideas on content, support and narratives relating to the GCM is key to harnessing the potential benefits of the GCM.

Sweden will continue to advance its contribution to the objectives of the GCM. On an overarching level, various inter-ministerial meetings and discussions will be held to coordinate, share and collect information on migration issues, in line with the whole-of-government approach endorsed by the Compact. Steps will be taken to interact continuously with government agencies regarding their activities of relevance for GCM implementation in partner countries. The Government Offices also appreciates interaction among civil society, the private sector, municipalities, and regions in view of their work along the lines of the GCM objectives. Sweden will continue, and when possible deepen, its engagement in regional migration dialogues.

Sweden will continue to integrate migration into its development cooperation. This will include, when appropriate, explicitly addressing migration issues in the global, regional, and country-specific strategies governing Sida. Recently, Sida has been tasked by the Government to produce in-depth reports on its work related to migration and development on a biannual basis. The first report was received in March this year. Sida will also take steps to strengthen methodological support for migration and development, such as the integration of migration in its Multi-Dimensional Poverty Analysis.