

Sweden

In 2022, Swedish development cooperation faced volatile budget changes. After Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the former social democratic Government initially held back 866 million Euros (9,2 billion) SEK from development programs to fund the reception of Ukrainian refugees in Sweden (adding to the already earmarked 103 million Euros or 1,1 billion SEK from the ODA budget for those types of costs). This is equivalent to almost one-fifth of Swedish annual ODA. After massive criticism, the amount was lowered to 564 million Euros (6 billion SEK). This reallocation led to drastic reductions in Sida's geographic budget lines under which large amounts of earmarked multilateral support, including for UNFPA, is channelled. Swedish general elections in September 2022 resulted in a liberal-conservative three-party minority governmental, that will depend on parliamentary support from the far-right Sweden Democrats to rule. The new Government swiftly announced that the country will no longer use the nomenclature 'Feminist Foreign Policy' as it had been the case since 2014, being the first country implementing a policy of the kind. Nonetheless, the new Reform Agenda for the country's development cooperation policy, adopted in 2023, emphasises women's and girl's rights as well as SRHR.

MATCHING POLICIES TO FINANCING TRENDS

In 2022, Sweden reduced support to SRH/FP by 17%, amounting to **168.5 million Euros** and equivalent to 3.3% of total ODA. This reduction was mainly a result of the overall cuts by the previous government, when reallocating funding to in-country refugee costs. Reductions were consequently made in Sida's geographic budget lines, under which earmarked multilateral support is allocated. In that same line, contributions to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) also decreased by 22%: total funding in 2022 amounted to over **252 million Euros** or 4.9% of total ODA. Cuts in Sida's budget that include large scale contributions to international SRHR organisations and initiatives were the main reason behind the decrease, followed by above-mentioned use of the multilateral system. Sweden nonetheless kept support to programmes benefitting safe abortion, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Queer (LGBTIQ+) people and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Sweden's support to UNFPA in 2022 decreased by about 15%, with a total contribution of 108 million Euros for SRH/FP and 109 million Euros for SRHR. Once more, the reduction was observed in earmarked programmes, and even though core contributions to the agency increased by 14%. To be noted that in the last years Sweden significantly supported UNFPA additional "SRHR and COVID-19" programmes at country level, some of which are also phasing out. Sweden is thus no longer the European government that mostly funds the agency.

FORECAST

Under the new liber-conservative Government, there will be a gradual decrease of the ODA level, aiming at reaching 0,7% of GNI spend on ODA by 2025, rather than the 1% minimum. These changes will likely lead to the reduction of SRHR funding in the years to come, even though there is renewed political commitment to the agenda.

% ODA SRH/FP IN 2022

3,2%

% ODA SRHR IN 2022

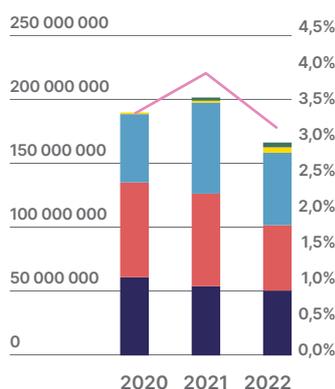
4,9%

LEVEL OF ODA TRANSPARENCY



SWEDEN'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SRH/FP AND SRHR

SRH/FP SPENDING

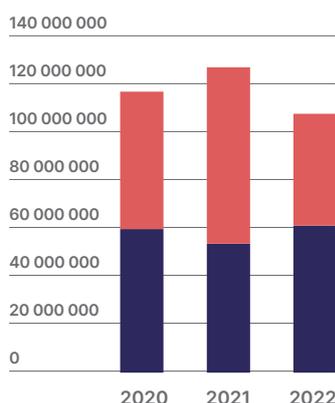


SRHR SPENDING

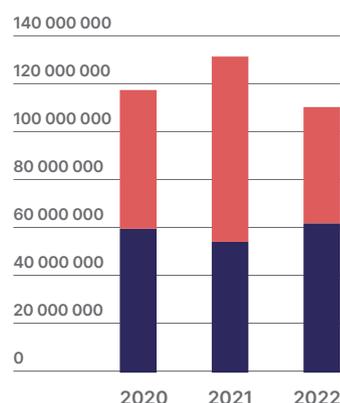


■ Core Multilateral
■ Multilat. projects
■ Int Orgs
■ Research
■ Govt-to-Govt
— Spending as % ODA

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFPA - SRH/FP



CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFPA - SRHR



■ Core
■ Other UNFPA projects
■ Supplies Partnership