

Trade contributes to economic development, which is one of the cornerstones for poverty alleviation. But when a country lacks prerequisites such as political stability, rule of law, infrastructure and productive capacity it is difficult to take advantage of the opportunities that free trade brings. In 2015, Sweden contributed 2.2bn SEK to the international Aid for Trade agenda, which includes trade-related infrastructure, building productive capacity (private sector, financial sector, agriculture) and trade policy and regulations.



### MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Sweden contributes to the international Aid for Trade initiative, which seeks to address issues of importance to developing countries' ability to export and import. Aid for Trade includes interventions aimed at formulating and implementing trade policy and regulation, improving trade-related infrastructure and the building of productive capacity (business and financial services, agriculture, manufacturing, mining etc).

Trade-related assistance aims to:

- **Strengthen countries in the international context** – Sida contributes to developing countries' capacity to participate effectively in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and to implement and take advantage of opportunities provided through trade agreements. The priority of the cooperation with Eastern Europe and Western Balkan is increased internationalisation through economic integration with the EU.
- **Promote regional trade and regional economic integration** – to trade with neighbouring countries can be a step towards the international market. Sida provides support e.g. through the East African Community, and the implementation of regional trade agreements in the Middle East/North Africa.

The Swedish support to trade policy and regulations comprises around 18% of our total Aid for Trade and the support is channelled through multilateral, regional as well as bilateral channels. Geographically, most of the programmes receiving support are in Africa. About 48% of the bilateral support goes to African countries (mainly Uganda, Tanzania and Liberia), followed by Eastern Europe (26%) and the Middle East and North Africa (22%). Within the regional programmes Africa dominates with 52% of the disbursements, but support to the Middle East and North Africa is increasing and constituted 37% in 2015. Interventions at the multilateral or global level are difficult to attribute geographically, but a large part take place in Africa.

The main areas of support in 2015 were:

- **Technical barriers to trade** – Ensuring that goods produced in developing countries adhere to international standards, and that adequate testing facilities are available.
- **Sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS)** – Measures dealing with food safety and animal and plant health, ensuring that e.g. vegetables and flowers comply with the standards of the export market, be it regional or international.
- **Trade facilitation** – support to improve procedures for, and thereby reducing the cost of the movement of goods across borders but at the same time safeguarding legitimate regulatory objectives.

### THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone – and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida's main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.



# Results

## DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

While recent commodity prices have not been beneficial for exporting resource-rich countries, even at times of high prices, export growth failed to bring about much poverty reduction. This points to the need for structural transformation and re-orientation towards inclusive and broad-based growth. Moreover, while certain middle-income countries are increasing their participation in international trade, low-income and least-developed countries are lagging behind. Regional trade and integration into regional value chains holds some potential for growth, but has failed to take off, especially in Africa. Finally, trade in services and e-commerce hold potential for developing countries, although challenges in terms of mobility, transport and internet connectivity currently hamper such development.

## SWEDISH SUPPORT

Sweden supports a range of activities aimed at increasing cooperating countries' participation in regional and global trade. The support to trade and regional integration in sub-Saharan Africa has contributed to the improvement of the movement of goods across the continent, safer and easier border crossing for women traders and the building of trade policy capacity. The trade-related support to the Middle East and North Africa region has strengthened policy areas such as inclusive trade, investments, competition and consumer protection.

The 2015 EU Aid for Trade monitoring report placed Sweden as the fifth largest contributor to Aid for Trade among the EU member states.

## PROJECTS AND SUPPORT

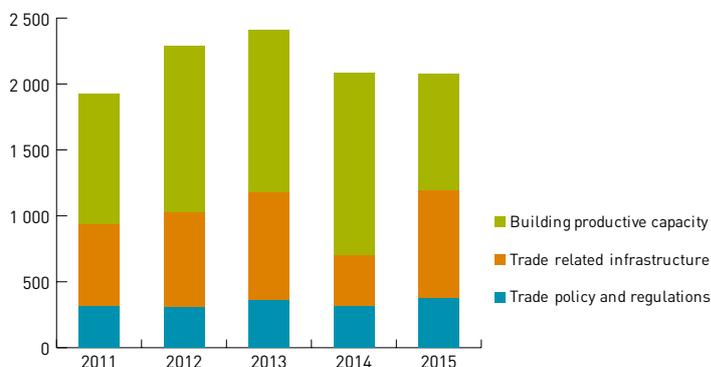
### Democratic Republic of Congo and Great Lakes Region

Support through International Alert promotes women's civic, political and economic empowerment through knowledge, networking and advocacy in eastern DRC and Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. Better information flows concerning trade regimes, taxation and traders' rights have improved the lives of women cross-border traders.

### Story of change

Trading across the borders of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda has for long been difficult and, especially for women, dangerous. Support through International Alert is addressing women's vulnerability and exclusion from decision-making processes by among other

**TABLE 1: SWEDISH AID FOR TRADE BY CATEGORY, 2011-2015 (MILLION SEK)**



A study of gender aspects of the EU trade agreement with Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova provided ideas of support and mitigating measures for women.



Through TradeMark East Africa the time to export from East African countries has decreased by 20%.



“We are very united and no longer afraid of each other as Congolese and Rwandan women.”  
**Simire**

things improving the dialogue. Simire, who sells cabbages in DRC, has benefitted and is now being trusted by her Rwandan suppliers who provide Simire with cabbages on credit, which she pays back immediately after selling them across the border.