

Call for concept notes (version 260603):

Sida invites concept notes for health/SRHR development research cooperation in LMICs or Ukraine

Sida would like to support research cooperation partnerships with Swedish organisations and organisations in low and lower-middle income countries (LMICs) or Ukraine to contribute to research, strengthened research capacity and research impact in the areas of human health and/or sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

This invitation to submit concept notes to Sida is directed to Swedish and international universities and other research organizations with strong links to Sweden and LMICs or Ukraine. The call is a first step by Sida towards identifying two or more research cooperation partnerships for possible financial support.

Eligibility

Swedish universities/research organisations with strong links to LMICs or Ukraine are eligible to apply. Organisations/universities based in other countries may apply provided that the proposed initiative will be carried out in partnership with at least one Swedish university or research organization, and that the consortium of partners has strong links to Ukraine or LMICs. The call is open to both current and new partner organizations to Sida.

In general, an organisation may only submit one concept note to Sida in which the organisation is the proposed Sida agreement partner. For exceptions to this rule, please see the [Contact and FAQ page](#).

The applying organizations/consortium must have demonstrated previous experience of producing high quality research in health/SRHR, improving impact of research, and/or strengthening scientific research capacity in under-resourced contexts.

At least one applying organization must be a legal entity capable of entering into an agreement with Sida (the "agreement partner"). The proposed agreement partner must possess strong administrative, internal management, and control capacities, in particular for preventing and handling all forms of fraud, corruption, and abuse. Furthermore, all partners to the initiative must meet Sida's transparency and accountability requirements and must not appear on the EU sanctions list.

More information concerning partnership with Sida can be found on www.sida.se/en/for-partners.

Linkages to Swedish policy priorities

Concept notes are invited that have high relevance for the [Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation in research for poverty reduction and sustainable development 2022–2028](#) and the:

- [Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation for health and sexual and reproductive health and rights \(SRHR\)](#), and/or

- [Strategy for Sweden's reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine 2023–2027](#), specifically the objectives pertaining to health services or improved health for prioritized groups.

General requirements

Concept notes shall describe initiatives that:

1. Contribute to strengthened research capacity in fields related to health and/or SRHR in one or more LMIC and/or Ukraine;
2. Facilitate increased impact of scientific knowledge for improved health and/or enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights in one or more LMIC and/or Ukraine;
3. Document a commitment to and method for achieving equitable research cooperation partnerships, including coproduction of concept notes/proposals, and fairness in research cooperation arrangements, division of labor, decision making, and access to resources;
4. Align with national research and/or development priorities/strategies in the LMIC(s)/Ukraine where the cooperation takes place and contribute to long-term sustainable change/improvements;
5. Practice gender equality and include gender perspectives in research and development activities;
6. Include substantial partnership between at least one research organization in one or more LMIC and/or Ukraine, and one Sweden-based research organization; and
7. Prioritize the greater part of Sida funds for activities in and for researchers in LMICs or Ukraine.

Claims regarding potential impact and (national/regional/scientific) relevance should be substantiated with references to supporting evidence.

The call welcomes (but does not require) :

- Concept notes describing initiatives that build upon/complement already existing research and/or development cooperation partnerships;
- Initiatives that will generate improved synergies with the Swedish private sector and their commercial health products or services in LMICs/Ukraine;
- Initiatives that are trans- and interdisciplinary including any scholarly fields of research from the arts and sciences; or
- Initiatives that are cofinanced from other sources.

Sida will **not** consider concept notes that are *solely* or *primarily* support for:

- Individual Masters or PhD degrees;
- Networking activities or conferences; or
- Design or delivery of Masters or PhD programmes or courses.

Budget and Duration

Concept notes should describe research cooperation initiatives that are requesting Sida-funding for a total amount between SEK 8-14 million. The initiatives should have a maximum duration of 18 to 24 months and be feasible to be implemented sometime during January 2027 and December 2028.

Priority countries

Sida will prioritize concept notes:

- Involving one or more partners in a country/countries where Sweden currently has development cooperation through a bilateral or regional strategy, and/or
- Building upon Sweden's current bilateral research cooperation in Bolivia, Mozambique, Rwanda, or Tanzania, or past bilateral research cooperation in Ethiopia, Uganda, or Vietnam.

Concept notes

The concept note should be brief (maximum five pages, 11 pt font, no additional annexes) and in English. *Concept notes that do not comply with this requirement will not be assessed.*

The concept note should concisely define the problem that the proposed initiative will address. Furthermore, it should describe the rationale, objectives, main activities and intended results of the suggested initiative. It should include a time plan for the initiative and a tentative budget itemized according to general cost categories. If the agreement partner would forward Sida funds to other organizations, this should be visible in the tentative budget. Any expected co-financing from other sources should be noted. The concept note should include a brief time table for the main activities included in the initiative.

Concept notes should clearly indicate how LMIC/Ukraine partners have been involved in the co-creation and design of the proposed initiative. Concepts notes should describe mutually beneficial research partnerships where:

- Research and cooperation agendas are jointly defined;
- Roles, responsibilities, and resources are fairly distributed; and
- Knowledge production and use are embedded in local contexts and systems.

The organization that would act as Sida's agreement partner should be described, including its legal status and governance structure. Other partner organizations should be briefly described, including their roles in the initiative.

Time table and next steps

The call will open on **25 May 2026 at 09:00 CEST** and concept notes should be submitted to Sida no later than **16 August 2026 at 17:00 CEST**. Sida will review all eligible concept notes during the second half of August 2026. Concept notes will be assessed according to their relevance for the call and the described criteria and requirements. All applicants will be informed about the outcome once the assessment process has been completed.

Sida's intention is to select two or more concept notes for possible development into a full proposal. The preliminary submission deadline for full proposals is 31 October 2026. Details concerning the preparation of full proposals will be communicated later. For full proposals describing new research

that has not been subject to independent external scientific/ethical review, Sida may commission such a review.

Sida makes no commitment at this point to further elaborate on or reach any agreement with any of the organisations submitting concept notes. **Sida's decision concerning the selection of concept notes cannot be appealed.**

Contacts

The call and the link to Sida's call portal can be found at <https://www.sida.se/en/for-partners/calls-and-announcements>. For questions and further information, please e-mail: callforsk2026@sida.se. Please note that Sida may not be able to answer questions during July 2026.