

1) Who is eligible to submit a proposal?

- This call is open to not-for-profit actors with ongoing activities relevant to one or more of the three priority areas in one or more of the eight prioritised countries or along the two priority routes.
- Eligible actors include international and regional organisations operating on a not-for-profit basis, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- Applicants must meet the basic requirements set out under "Information about the call process", including a minimum of five years of registration and the policy and governance requirements listed there.
- Proposals from new partners, meaning actors that do not currently hold a partnership agreement with Sida, are particularly encouraged to apply.

2) Can we apply jointly with another organisation?

- Proposals may be submitted by a single organisation or by a partnership of organisations.
- Sub-granting to implementing partners, such as local NGOs, other INGOs, or other actors, is permitted within a lead-applicant structure. The proposal should describe the role of each partner and the basis on which sub-grants will be managed.

3) Can one organisation submit more than one proposal under this call?

- An organisation may submit more than one proposal, provided each proposal is substantively distinct and clearly justified. Multiple submissions from the same organisation should not duplicate or compete with one another.
- An organisation that has already submitted a proposal to Sida that is being or has been appraised may also submit a new one, provided that the proposal is substantially distinct and respond to this particular call. Take into account that in this call Sida will prioritize new partners.

4) Must a proposal cover one, two, or all three priority areas?

- Proposals may address one, two or all three of the priority areas.
- A focused proposal addressing a single priority area in depth is equally welcome as an integrated proposal addressing more than one. The coherence and feasibility of the design is more important than the number of priority areas covered.

5) Can the project be a continuation of a former project or program?

- Continuation or scaling-up of an existing project is possible in principle. However, this call places particular emphasis on innovative working methods and approaches, and

prioritises proposals that bring new ideas. A proposal building on a previous project should clearly demonstrate the added value beyond simple continuation, for example introducing new methodological elements, or testing new approaches.

6) Can the project be an extension of a project ongoing in a different country?

- Extending a tested approach to one of the priority countries or along one of the priority routes is possible in principle. However, this call prioritises proposals that bring new ideas. A proposal extending a previous approach is possible, for example if it applies lessons learned from an innovative project in one country to a route-based logic.

7) Which countries does Sida consider in scope under the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Routes?

- Proposals are encouraged to reflect a route-based logic that addresses interlinkages between countries of origin, transit and onward movement. Multi-country designs along a route are welcome.
- Although routes are subject to change and migration patterns are constantly shifting, some countries could be identified along these two routes.
 - Central Mediterranean Route: countries of origin and transit in West and North Africa, including in particular Algeria, Libya, Mali, Niger and Tunisia, with maritime onward movement towards the EU.
 - Eastern Mediterranean Route: Mainly departing from Türkiye but even from Libya and to a lesser extent from Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Countries of origin Afghanistan, Sudan, Egypt, Bangladesh, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen and Eritrea.
- Note that, in addition to the route countries, eight priority countries are explicitly named in the call: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia, Syria, Türkiye and Uzbekistan. A proposal may focus on one or more of the priority countries, on the routes, or in combination.

8) What does it mean that a project must be operational?

- With this call, Sida is seeking project and programmes that implement innovative working methods and approaches in addressing irregular migration within the three priority areas. Therefore, proposals whose primary focus is policy development, research, studies, advocacy campaigns, and similar activities are not eligible.

9) How will Sida assess proposals?

Proposals that meet the basic requirements will undergo Sida's standard contribution assessment process. These include:

a) Relevance for strategy on migration

Sida implements the Strategy for Sweden's Global Development Cooperation on Migration, Returns and Voluntary Repatriation 2024–2028 in accordance with the decision from the Government. The Strategy also aims to combat irregular migration through supporting partner countries to strengthen asylum and migration management, including border controls. The strategy aims to support Swedish priorities in efforts concerning migration and return (including forced return) and voluntary repatriation. The application should focus in assessing the following objective: *Enhanced capacity for migration and asylum management in partner countries, including border controls, with a focus on counteracting irregular migration*

b) Thematic assessment (poverty, HR, gender, conflict, environment)

The proposed programme shall contribute to results that benefit people living in poverty and under oppression, which is the overall objective of Swedish development cooperation. The organisation must have a vision statement or policy which describes its support to democratic values and human rights.

The organisation must ensure that gender equality through policy is streamlined in the organization and programming. The organisation must ensure zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

The organisation must have procedures to take into account the impact of programme activities on the environment and climate.

c) Development effectiveness

The organisation must contribute to effective coordination with other development actors to avoid duplications and gaps, and to enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the programme.

d) Anti-democratic activity

The organisation must not have any links to anti-democratic activity, violent extremism, terrorism, activities that undermine the rights of women and girls. Besides, the organisation must not be registered on the EU list of sanctions.

The Government's instructions to Sida (2025:269, 5§ 6) state that Sida shall '[...] ensure that development assistance is not given to actors who conduct or support anti-democratic activities, violent extremism, Islamism, anti-Semitism, terrorism, activities that undermine the rights of women and girls, and hate speech directed at individuals or groups.'

- Sida's risk review draws on publicly available information, internal due diligence, and where appropriate, additional information requested from the applicant. The purpose of the review is to enable Sida to ensure that development assistance is not given to actors who engage in or support anti-democratic activities, violent extremism, Islamism, anti-Semitism, terrorism, activities that undermine the rights of women and girls, and hate speech directed at individuals or groups.
- Applicants should be prepared to provide: organisational governance documents, including by-laws and ownership/membership structures where applicable; documentation of any past or present links to organisations under EU sanctions; and information about the broader networks within which the organisation operates. The review applies to lead applicants and to all named partners in the proposal

e) Objectives and Theory of Change

The proposal shall describe the objective in terms of the expected change that the proposed intervention is intended to achieve.. A theory of change describes how the desirable change is expected to occur, in line with established knowledge and proven experience. A theory of change must be sufficiently concrete and realistic to guide the project's planning, implementation and monitoring.

This relationship can be described using objectives set out in a matrix or through a narrative text. However, it is important to clarify the assumptions and risks underlying the causal links.

f) Budget- efficiency

The total budget for any single project under this call shall not exceed SEK 15 million across the full implementation period and the following cost categories are eligible:

- Personnel costs;
 - Programme and activity implementation costs;
 - Equipment and materials necessary for implementation, where applicable;
 - Administrative and overhead costs
 - Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and audit costs;
 - Forwarding of funds to implementing partners (sub-grants), where applicable.
- Co-financing or other sources of funding should be disclosed where present.
 - All costs must be justified in the budget narrative. The budget must be clearly linked to the implementation of the project. The budget must be detailed by calendar year.
 - The budget must demonstrate cost-effectiveness, either in its own right or in relation to the activity plan and the objectives.

g) Partner capacity

The organisation must be registered for a minimum of five year.

The organisation must deliver activities that are results-oriented and promotes visibility, transparency and reporting on how donor contributions have been utilised, and that prioritises safety and dignity, do no harm, accountability to and participation of affected persons throughout the programme cycle.

h) Anti-corruption

The organisation fulfil needs to Sida's requirements on transparency and accountability; have sound internal governance, control systems and resources, including to prevent and respond to all forms of fraud, corruption and different forms of abuse.

The organisation must also demonstrate to be able to deliver activities that are results-oriented and promotes visibility, transparency and reporting on how donor contributions have been utilised, and that prioritises safety and dignity, do no harm, accountability to and participation of affected persons throughout the programme cycle.

i) Risk analysis

Sida will evaluate whether the organisation have sound risk assessment policies and procedures in place.

10) How does Sida want the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA), conflict sensitivity and other cross-cutting issues reflected in the proposal?

- Sida applies the Human Rights-Based Approach across its development cooperation. Proposals are expected to identify rights-holders and duty-bearers relevant to the intervention, analyse accountability mechanisms, and apply the PANEL principles in the project design (participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and legality). Sida's technical note "Human Rights-Based Approach and Migration" is a key reference.
- Conflict sensitivity is expected in all proposals operating in contexts affected by conflict, fragility or significant tension. Given the priority countries and routes in this call, conflict sensitivity is integral to successful proposals.

When designing development assistance, we must always take into account how it can affect the tensions and conflicts that already exist in society. All development cooperation must support peaceful development, and must never thwart its own aims by inadvertently exacerbating violence and conflict.