

International Development Cooperation Policy of the YWCA- YMCA of Sweden

INTRODUCTION

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden (in Swedish “KFUM Sverige”) is affiliated with global movements, World YWCA and the World Alliance of YMCAs. The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden has a solid social commitment and has historically worked with international development issues. Global affiliation and engagement regarding international solidarity and social justice play a crucial role for identity and core values of our organisation.

This policy applies to international development cooperation of the YWCA–YMCA of Sweden, which is supported by government funding (for example through SIDA and SMC), funds collected to the 90-bank account and other foundations that can not be reached locally. Solely the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden can manage programmes within international development cooperation due to grants rules from Sida and SMC. Funding can only be used for purposes within international development cooperation.

Being part of global movements entails that the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden forges many international contacts. Our international operations cover the following areas: international development cooperation, collaboration with and within World and European Alliances, global meeting places and international work in local associations in Sweden.

An important part of the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden's international operations consists of international development cooperation with YWCA and YMCA partner organisations around the world. International development cooperation entails operations in which partners cooperate with jointly formulated goals. Collaboration is often conducted in the form of projects or programs. Mutual learning and exchange of experience are fundamental. International

development cooperation means that all involved parties contribute with resources, for example financial resources, skills, knowledge, time and commitment, etc.

By strengthening the YWCA and YMCA movements globally, we contribute to our goals, which encompasses promoting international solidarity and justice.

KEY POINTS OF OUR APPROACH

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden is a youth movement that cares and cater to young people's needs and treats youth as a vital resource in the society, today and tomorrow. It is therefore obvious that young people are both actors and target groups in our international development cooperation, that is why all our programs within aim directly or indirectly to support development and capacity building of our partner organizations around the world and of the Swedish movement. Through cooperation with partner organizations, we contribute to the establishment of effective organizations that play an important role in their communities and improve the situation of young people.

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden does not generally work with humanitarian emergency aid but in case such situations occur, it can transmit funds, based on capacity and opportunity, to partners.

Because mutual learning and exchange of experience is an important part of our international development cooperation, we focus on areas where we can contribute with our experiences and knowledge and where we need to build our own capacity. For example, we share methods that we apply in Sweden to our partner organizations around the world.

Our approach consists of the following principles:

RECIPROCITY

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden and our international partner organizations work with issues that both parties prioritize and have an interest in. Partnership is based on reciprocity, respect, equality and mutual learning. Close and in-depth relationship is a precondition for achieving effective international development cooperation of high quality.

EQUALITY

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden aims at strengthening young people and encourages their personal responsibility in society in Sweden and in partnering countries. Together with partners we target unequal structures in society and strengthen the influence and impact of young people. The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden supports young people's personal development and strives to contribute to their self-esteem and independence.

SUSTAINABILITY

Strengthening organizations and individuals requires time and it also takes time to foster close relationships with partner organizations. It is therefore important to maintain a long-term perspective for international development cooperation.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The corestone of the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden 's ideology is the principle of equal value of all human beings. Therefore, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, focusing on the rights of children and youth, is a milestone of our international development cooperation.

GENDER EQUALITY

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden is a part of the YWCA and YMCA global movements, both of whom work for gender equality. The primary goal of the YWCA is to strengthen young women's opportunities to take control of their lives and to participate actively in society. The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden claims that all people regardless of their identity shall have the same opportunities, rights and obligations. It means that all development cooperation shall be gender sensitive.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

One of the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden 's goals is to take responsibility for conditions of future generations. International development cooperation shall therefore be mainstreamed by environmental sustainability.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

In order to enable effective development cooperation, collaborations shall be limited to a few countries and regions. In order to ensure sustainability and quality, operations in a certain country or region shall cover at least a five-year period. Furthermore, when selecting partner organizations, it is important to consider several principles:

COMMON INTEREST

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden and our partners should collaborate on issues that both prioritize. It is very important that the work is in line with the interests and/or knowledge that exist in both the Swedish movement and our partner organizations.

NEEDS AND CAPACITY

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden should consider the amount of other partners and donors that the potential partner organization has. There must be both a specific need or added value to have the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden as a partner and also organizational capacity to undertake cooperation with the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden.

ESTABLISHED COOPERATION

A positive factor is if there already is an established cooperation with the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden or local associations in Sweden.

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

There should be a limited geographical spread where the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden has ongoing international development cooperation. The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden strengthens collaborations between partners in neighbouring countries, which contributes to coordination benefits and opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation between YWCA and YMCAs.

YWCA AND YMCA IN THE SAME COUNTRY

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden encourages cooperation with both and YMCA in the same country.

PRIORITIES OF WORLD ALLIANCES

The YWCA and YMCA's world alliances priorities shall be included in the overall assessment.

EQUAL COVERAGE OF YWCA AND YMCA PARTNERS

An equal distribution of YWCA and YMCA organizations as partner organisations must be prioritized.

ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden strives at undertaking international work that involve a large part of the Swedish YWCA-YMCA movement. With joint priorities within international development cooperation, associations, regions the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden can deepen their cooperation, strengthen the YWCA and YMCA identity in the movement and achieve increased involvement in development cooperation in Sweden. We therefore strive to include the entire organization according to this policy.

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden has an overall responsibility for managing and coordinating international development cooperation supported by government funding (for example through SIDA and SMC), funds collected to the 90-bank account and other foundations that can not be reached locally.

An important responsibility is to undertake close dialogue with partner organisations at the national level and with federations, regions and local associations in Sweden who are committed to be involved in international development cooperation. In order to undertake operations in Sweden, funds must be raised from other sources than government funds. As international work is of vital importance to the entire organization, it is a shared responsibility to provide the resources needed to enable international cooperation at local and international levels.

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden is committed to undertake international development cooperation of high quality and develop methods to continuously improve the quality of the operations. Therefore, the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden has the main responsibility for international development cooperation. The work includes ensuring that international development cooperation is based on the principles specified in the policy. Coordination with other donors/partners and the YWCA and YMCA Alliances shall be undertaken. The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden is responsible to assure compliance with rules and instructions from the granting

authority/donor organization. The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden will ensure that partners in Sweden and abroad are aware of and comply with the rules of agreement signed for cooperation.

The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden assures quality of international development cooperation. This role entails to increase experience and skills within international development cooperation, knowledge of the geographical areas and the development of the partner organizations. The YWCA-YMCA of Sweden shall encourage exchanges of experience between partners abroad and local associations in Sweden and be a role model how to foster partnership.