

# Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Sweden (summary)

Statistical review 2019



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för hållbar utveckling

## Summary

The goals in the 2030 Agenda are about creating decent and sustainable living circumstances and conditions for all people. Since prospects are local and differ to varying degrees among countries, while the goals are global, the challenges and strengthens of each country are unique.

What is the situation with Sweden in relation to the Global Goals? It is not always possible to make an assessment on the fulfilment of targets in the global goals under the 2030 Agenda. A discussion of target levels and ways to reach the targets with regard to several of the social goals would be helpful with a view to future reviews. In the absence of target levels, mainly two types of comparisons are made. One describes indicators' progress over time and the other describes international comparisons.

When governments around the world adopted the 2030 Agenda, they undertook to implement it in accordance with their conditions and nationally relevant targets. In other words, Sweden's fulfilment of targets should be viewed in relation to both national targets and targets agreed upon at the international level.

Twenty-one of the 169 targets have 2020 as the target year, rather than 2030. Sweden can be considered to have met many of these targets, based on international comparisons and the global indicators. However, continued efforts are important concerning several of the targets. This is reflected in, not least, the national targets on injuries from road accidents and the environmental targets for oceans and forests.

### **How to read this summary**

A brief summary follows concerning areas where we see the clearest results. These are grouped in five themes that all cover an aspect of sustainability. The items for each theme are presented, in general, in numerical order based on the relevant goal. In some cases, in which a departure from this ordering has been better for the overall picture, this has been done.

## How sustainable is Sweden?

### Planetary sustainability

Sweden will not meet the target of zero net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2045 unless the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions cannot be significantly accelerated. Similarly, Sweden will not meet the target of sustainable use of oceans and marine resources, and threatened species continue to be eradicated at the same rate as before.

Admittedly, domestic carbon dioxide emissions are shrinking at the same time as the economy is growing, but not at the rate required to meet the targets. Swedish consumption also drives emissions abroad.

At the same time, Sweden meets the target of conserving coastal and marine areas, and the share of conserved forest land is growing. Water consumption is decreasing and long-term exposure to particulate matter is dropping, but the levels of unregulated hazardous chemicals is increasing.

- Sweden will not meet the target of zero net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2045 under the existing and adopted instruments and measures. (Goal 13)
- The target to sustainably use the oceans and marine resources will not be met by 2020. Problems remain concerning excessive fertilisation, dangerous substances, weak fish stocks, alien species and an impact on sensitive ocean environments. (Goal 14)
- Marine protection comprises 13.8 percent of Sweden's total marine area, including the exclusive economic zone. This means that Sweden meets the global target of conserving at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas by 2020. (Goal 14)
- The loss of biodiversity has not been checked and the rate at which species are being eradicated has not been curbed. The highest at-risk species are those in need of agricultural land and marine environment. (Goal 15)
- Levels of strictly regulated hazardous chemicals are slowly falling in breast milk and blood in Sweden, while levels of substances that have not yet been regulated, such as long-chain PFAS, are rising. (Goal 2)
- The percentage of persons who suffer from poor air quality in the home and outside the home was at the same level in 2015 as in 2007. The difference is that more adults than children, and more women than men now report that they suffer from poor air quality. (Goal 3)
- Water consumption is declining in general, and this is most evident in agriculture: from 9 000 cubic metres per SEK million in value added in 2005 to 6 000 cubic metres in 2015. Households' water consumption has also decreased. (Goal 6)

- In Sweden, energy intensity was 18 percent lower in 2017 than in 2008. The objective is 20 percent lower in 2020. There is also a target to reduce energy intensity by 50 percent from 2005 to 2030. In 2017, energy intensity was 27 percent lower than in 2005. (Goal 7)
- Carbon dioxide emissions in relation to value added shows how much emissions are needed for a certain economic contribution. Since 2010, emissions per produced unit in the economy have been falling. At the overall level, emissions have decreased, at the same time as the economy has grown. (Goal 9)
- In 2017, 79.6 percent of the population in Sweden had easy access to public transport. This is an increase of just under 1 percentage point compared with 2014. A slightly larger share of women than men had easy access to public transport. (Goal 9)
- There are major regional differences in access to public transport. In Stockholm County, 93 percent of the population had easy access to public transport, compared with 58 percent in Gotland County. (Goal 9)
- The share of the population in towns and urban areas that has easy access to public transport has increased and was nearly 89 percent in 2017. (Goal 11)
- Long-term exposure to particulate matter in the ambient air is dropping. Particulate matter originates mainly from long-distance transport from the European continent. Exposure is considerably higher in the south compared with the north of Sweden, since the southern parts of the country are affected more by winds from the European continent. (Goal 11)
- Food waste was reduced by four percent between 2014 and 2016. Households account for 75 percent of food waste. (Goal 12)
- In 2016, the amount of hazardous waste was 238 kg per person, compared with the EU average of 125 kg per person. Between 2010 and 2016, the total amount of resulting primary hazardous waste in Sweden dropped by 13 percent. (Goal 12)
- The largest part of emissions from consumption consists of private persons' consumption of items such as foodstuff and transport. (Goal 12)
- Emissions of greenhouse gases within Sweden has decreased over the years, due to factors such as altered energy sources for heating of homes and properties. In recent years, this decrease has slowed. (Goal 12)
- Between 2008 and 2017, stationary emissions of greenhouse gases from industry and domestic transport emissions of greenhouse gases decreased by 17 percent. In 2017, these emissions accounted for 64 percent of greenhouse gases. (Goal 13)

- Sweden meets the target of implementing international instruments to counter illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing. (Goal 14)
- Between 2000 and 2015, afforestation has dropped by one percent. At the same time, the share of forest area protected by law has increased by 19 percent. (Goal 15)

### **Sustainability in society**

Deadly violence has increased in recent years, but is relatively low at an international level. Voter turnout is high, but unevenly distributed, and more men than women take part in political discussions. Men are more subject to violence than women, while women to a largest degree than men are subject to sexual offences and are limited by worry about the risk of being assaulted or threatened. More young girls and boys are bullied. The number of researchers has increased, as well as Sweden's public development assistance.

- Deadly violence is increasing, compared with five years ago, but compared with 2002, the level remains relatively unchanged. Since the objective is to substantially reduce all forms of violence and deadly violence, Sweden does not meet this target. At the international level, deadly violence in Sweden is relatively low. Furthermore, it does not stand out compared with other EU countries. (Goal 16)
- The number of reported crimes of human trafficking has more than doubled since 2009. Since the objective is to eliminate human trafficking, Sweden does not meet this target. (Goal 16)
- The share of pupils aged 11, 13, and 15 years who have experienced bullying once or more often in recent months has increased from 12.6 percent in 2013-2014 to 19.4 percent in 2017-2018. Bullying is increased in all ages, both among girls and among boys. (Goal 4)
- Sweden's legal framework for reducing violence against women is in line with the global indicator at 92 percent. This is an increase from the 82 percent as estimated by the United Nations for the framework in 2018. The higher level in 2019 is due to the introduction of the Consent Act. The reason why the level is not 100 percent is because economic violence is not included in Swedish laws criminalising acts of domestic violence. (Goal 5)
- In 2012 to 2016, both GDP per capita and GDP per employed person had the strongest development in 2015: 3.4 and 3.1 percent, respectively. In 2016, development per capita stalled at 1.4 percent and development per employed person stalled at 1.2 percent. (Goal 8)
- The value added for the manufacturing industry as a share of GDP shows how the manufacturing industry contributes to the

country's economy and development. In 2012 to 2016, value added dropped from 15.2 percent to 13.4 percent. Value added per capita has varied over the period. (Goal 9)

- The number of researchers per million inhabitants in Sweden has increased gradually each year between 2013 and 2017; there were 7 129 researchers in 2017. (Goal 9)
- In 2018, 38 percent of the population aged 16 to 84 years stated that they mostly participate in discussions and speak their minds when the conversation turns to politics. This is a decrease from 43 percent in 2008 to 2009. It is more common for men than for women to participate in political discussions. (Goal 10)
- In 2017, 15.3 percent of the population (16 years and older) stated that they refrained from going out at night for fear of being assaulted or threatened some time in the past year. Among women, this share was nearly 25 percent. (Goal 11)
- Men aged 20-29 years are most at risk of being subjected to threats or violence in a public place. In 2017, 8.7 percent stated that they had been subjected to threats or violence. (Goal 11)
- In Swedish cities and urban areas, 62 percent of the built up area is comprised of public spaces. The international average is 59 percent and the average in Europe and North America is 56 percent. (Goal 11)
- Since the 2002 elections, voter turnout in Swedish Riksdag elections has increased each election. In the 2018 Riksdag elections, voter turnout was 87 percent. The Swedish voter turnout is high in an international perspective, but is uneven. There is a gap of 15-17 percentage points between Swedish born persons and foreign born persons, between persons with a high level of education and a low level of education, and between persons with high and low incomes. (Goal 16)
- Young persons aged 16-24 years use the internet daily to a greater extent than older persons. A relatively large share of persons aged 55-74 years has never used the internet. This poses a risk of social exclusion and lack of participation, in particular among foreign born persons and older persons. (Goal 17)

### **Social sustainability**

The number of persons with a low income standard in Sweden is decreasing. However, the share of persons with low income that increased rapidly in the 1990s and 2000s remains. The net income among women remains substantially lower than among men. Despite this, Sweden still meets the global criteria for economic gender equality.

Problems in society are unevenly distributed: persons with disabilities find it more difficult than the rest of the population to find work, and overcrowded living conditions affect primarily foreign born persons with a non-European background.

- The share of persons in Sweden who live in severe material deprivation, as defined by the EU, has decreased and is now the lowest level in Europe. (Goal 1)
- Foreign born persons and unemployed persons to a larger degree live in conditions of severe material deprivation than Swedish born persons with two Swedish born parents, and compared with those who are in work. (Goal 1)
- The share of persons with an income lower than 60 percent of the median income has increased since the early 1990s. At the same time, real incomes in Sweden have increased. This has led to a decrease of absolute income poverty in the same period. (Goal 1)
- Women living alone have a lower economic standard in all age groups than men living alone. (Goal 1)
- In the years 2011-2017, women's net income increased as a share of men's net income in the population aged 20 years and older from 77 percent to 81 percent. A division of the population in the age groups 20-64 years and 65 years and older reveals that the income gap between the sexes has only decreased in the younger age group. (Goal 5)
- Sweden meets the global criteria for economic gender equality to 100 percent. (Goal 5)
- In the years 2012-2017, incomes among both women and men increased by just over 15 percent, in fixed prices. This corresponds to an average increase of three percent per year. (Goal 10)
- However, the 40 percent of the population with the lowest disposable income has had lower income growth than the population as a whole. This is because there has been a strong trend for salaries and wages, and capital income during the period, while progress for social compensation has been weaker. (Goal 10)
- The share of unemployed persons who receive unemployment benefits has decreased from two in three in 2007 to one in four in 2014. (Goal 1)
- In 2014-2017, the share of unemployed persons aged 16-64 years was higher among persons with disabilities than among the rest of the population. In 2016-2017, the unemployment rate in these groups was 10 percent and four percent respectively. (Goal 8)
- Overcrowded living conditions have increased in the past ten years. Overcrowded living conditions are most substantial in the group foreign born persons with a non-European

background. Overcrowded living conditions are also increasing most in this group. (Goal 11)

### **Education in relation to sustainability**

Swedish pupils are becoming better at reading comprehension and maths, and the share of young people who are neither working nor studying is dropping.

- The negative trend in Swedish pupils' learning outcomes has been broken. Outcomes for 2015 show that learning outcomes in mostly reading comprehension and maths have improved instead. (Goal 4)
- The share of young people neither working nor studying has decreased from 7.2 percent to 6.2 percent in the period 2014-2018. Sweden is clearly below the EU average of 10.5 percent in 2018. (Goal 8)
- The share of pupils with psychosomatic disorders is increasing. A clear change since the 1980s is that the differences between both ages and sexes has increased. The highest share is among 15-year old girls and the lowest share is among boy aged 11-13 years. (Goal 3)
- The difference in remaining life expectancy from 30 years by education level is increasing. Remaining life expectancy is increasing the fastest among persons with post-secondary education and slowest among persons with compulsory education. (Goal 3)
- The share of pre-school teachers and teachers with formal teaching qualifications, a certificate and qualification is diminishing in general. At the same time, the number of pupils is increasing sharply. (Goal 4)

### **Health in relation to sustainability**

We smoke less, our alcohol consumption is decreasing, and we use antibiotics less. More people are overweight, while fewer people die early. Suicide is increasing in certain age groups, and more women than men have reduced mental well-being.

- In Sweden, the share of obese adults has tripled since the 1980s. Today, around half of the adult population is overweight or obese, which is on par with the EU average. Compared with 2015, there has been an increase, mostly among women aged 30-44 years. (Goal 2)
- Antibiotics consumption decreased from around 14 daily doses per 1 000 inhabitants and day in 2012 to 11 daily doses in 2018. (Goal 3)

- Among persons aged 15-29 years, the mortality rate from suicide is higher than in the early 2000s, but it is decreasing among women older than 44 year and among men older than 29 years. The largest decrease was among men 65 years and older. (Goal 3)
- Fewer people die early from various non-communicable diseases. Up to 2017, this share has decreased by 22 percent among women and by 29 percent among men. Primarily, fewer people die from cardiovascular diseases. The mortality rate is still higher for men than for women. (Goal 3)
- The share of persons with reduced mental well-being is largest among women aged 16-29 years, 33 percent, and lowest among men aged 65-84 years, 7 percent. A larger share of women than men report reduced mental well-being in all age groups. (Goal 3)
- The share of smokers has decreased between 2008-2009 and 2018; 11 percent among men and 9 percent among women are daily smokers. (Goal 3)
- The total alcohol consumption is decreasing in Sweden. In 2017, consumption was 9 litres per inhabitant 15 years and older, compared with 10.5 litres in 2004, when it peaked. (Goal 3)

## Challenges

Sweden's challenges in relation to the targets in the 2030 Agenda can be summarised in three overarching points.

- 1) Inequality in the economic area is not decreasing; the same applies to health, housing and exposure to violence. Inequality between groups is increasing in several areas.
- 2) It remains difficult to see that many of the national environmental targets can be reached.
- 3) Violence and violations are not decreasing. More young people are subjected to bullying.