

Swedfund

# Disclosure Statement, the Operating Principles for Impact Management

Swedfund International AB, April 8<sup>th</sup> 2024



## Swedfund International AB

P.O. Box 3286

SE-103 65 Stockholm, Sweden

**Phone** +46 8 725 94 00

**Website** [swedfund.se](https://www.swedfund.se)

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## Swedfund fights poverty through sustainable investments

Swedfund is Sweden's development finance institution with the mission of fighting poverty through sustainable investments in the world's poorest countries. We play a vital role in Sweden's development cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our investments in the private sector shall contribute to sustainable growth, job creation and improved access to socially important products and services in developing countries. Our operations contribute to sustainable development by fostering improved access to electricity and digitalisation, enabling more enterprises to meet international standards, promoting increased local value creation, and facilitating the diversification of economies, amongst others.

Swedfund was established in 1979 and is a state-owned company managed by the Swedish Ministry of Finance. Our operations are financed by reflows from the portfolio and through capital injections from the development cooperation budget, for which the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible. Since our inception, we have invested in companies, financial institutions and funds in countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. At the end of 2023, Swedfund had 73 investments, with 62 percent of the portfolio invested in Africa, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa.

We invest in four sectors which we consider to be particularly important for achieving our goal: Energy & Climate, Financial Inclusion, Sustainable Enterprises and Food Systems. Climate, gender equality and women's economic empowerment, and digitalisation are three thematic areas that are integrated into all aspects of our work, irrespective of the chosen instrument, geography or sector. Human rights are also a vital dimension which must permeate our investment activities in the process before we take a decision on a new investment and during the value creation period.

Our work is based on our Theory of Change. This means that we carry out an analysis of how a potential investment can contribute to change and what direct and indirect development effects we can help to create. We contractually bind the changes we want to achieve and consider possible, and provide expertise and technical assistance as and when necessary to support sustainable development. Further, our business model is based on three pillars: impact on society, sustainability and financial viability.

2023 marks the end of our strategy period 2020-2023. We are proud of what we have achieved in terms of impact and contribution to the SDGs, in particular considering aspects such as more decent jobs, gender equality and access to electricity. In 2024 we will enter into a new strategy period, 2024-2030, building on the competence and development we have worked for.

Swedfund International AB (Swedfund or the "Signatory") hereby affirms its status as a Signatory to the Operating Principles for Impact Management (the "Impact Principles"). This Disclosure Statement applies to the following assets (the "Covered Assets"): Swedfund's total portfolio. The total assets under management, the Covered Assets, in alignment with the Impact Principles is MUS\$ 1000 as of December 31st, 2023.



Maria Håkansson, CEO  
Swedfund International AB  
April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## PRINCIPLE 1:

**Define strategic impact objective(s), consistent with the investment strategy.** The Manager shall define strategic impact objectives for the portfolio or fund to achieve positive and measurable social or environmental effects, which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or other widely accepted goals. The impact intent does not need to be shared by the investee. The Manager shall seek to ensure that the impact objectives and investment strategy are consistent; that there is a credible basis for achieving the impact objectives through the investment strategy; and that the scale and/or intensity of the intended portfolio impact is proportionate to the size of the investment portfolio.

- Swedfund is Sweden's development finance institution for sustainable investments in developing countries and plays an important role in the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- Swedfund is a state-owned company and is managed by the Swedish Ministry of Finance. Its operations are financed by capital injections, for which the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for, and through reflows from the portfolio. According to Swedfund's Owner's instruction, the work of the organisation must contribute to the realisation of the goal for Sweden's Policy for Global Development (PGD) and the objective of the operations is the goal of Sweden's international aid - to contribute to the creation of conditions for improved standards of living for people who live in poverty and oppression. Swedfund's operations shall contribute to economically, socially, environmentally, and climatically sustainable development, aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda.
- Swedfund's mission is to fight poverty through sustainable investments in developing countries.
- Swedfund contributes to all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but we focus on scaling our impact to five core SDGs. Poverty reduction (Goal 1) is directly linked to our vision. Our focus on Gender equality (Goal 5), Decent work (Goal 8), Reduced inequalities (Goal 10) and Climate action (Goal 13) permeates all of Swedfund's operations and investment processes.
- Swedfund has several instruments for our investments: equity, loans and guarantees. We make both direct investments through equity and loans and indirect investments through the funds in which we invest. The choice of investment form depends on the financing requirements of each company, but we also strive to establish a good balance of instruments in our combined portfolio. Since 2023, Swedfund has also had access to EU guarantees.
- Our business model is based on three pillars: impact on society, sustainability and financial viability. By setting targets for each of these pillars at the portfolio level, monitoring the performance and working closely with our portfolio companies, we aim to ensure that our portfolio develops in the right direction and delivers the expected development effects.
- Swedfund's Policy for Sustainable Development states our approach on impact and includes key impact requirements for our portfolio companies: [swedfund-policy-for-sustainable-development\\_2023.pdf](#)
- Swedfund has formulated Theories of Change (ToC) for its overall institutional mission as well as for its focus sectors and themes. The ToCs frame the impact rationale for all

investments in association with Swedfund's mission, strategy and targets. The content and relevance of the ToCs are regularly revised based on evidence gathered through impact studies and dialogues with internal and external stakeholders.

- As a development finance institution, the achievement of our impact focused mission steers the development of our (i) strategy, (ii) targets and (iii) processes. This in turns stipulates how Swedfund integrates impact in our decision-making process, from proposal to exit.

## **PRINCIPLE 2:**

**Manage strategic impact on a portfolio basis.** The Manager shall have a process to manage impact achievement on a portfolio basis. The objective of the process is to establish and monitor impact performance for the whole portfolio, while recognizing that impact may vary across individual investments in the portfolio. As part of the process, the Manager shall consider aligning staff incentive systems with the achievement of impact, as well as with financial performance.

- Swedfund sets targets and manages its impact both on portfolio level and in individual investments. We have portfolio level mission objectives relating to the economical sustainability of investments, environmental and climatic sustainability of investments, social sustainability of investments and regarding Swedfund's additional role:
  - Turnover and profitability shall increase in not less than 60% of the Company's investments during the holding period with a base year corresponding to the investment year.
  - By 2045, Swedfund's investment portfolio shall be climate-neutral, meaning the portfolio shall have a net zero release of greenhouse gases. Also, the total release of greenhouse gases per invested Swedish krona shall accordingly decline over time with 2020 as the base year.
  - Increased gender equality in the investment portfolio, which entails fulfilment of the 2x-Challenge criteria or equivalent in at least 60% of the investments of the total portfolio, not later than three years from the date of investment.
  - Compliance by 100% of the investment portfolio with decent working conditions in accordance with the core ILO conventions not later than three years from the date of investment.
  - The Company's investment portfolio shall mobilise not less than 30% of commercial capital.
- The portfolio level mission targets guide investment selection and management. Swedfund's impact management process is integrated, together with environmental, social and governance (ESG) and business integrity (BI) management, into its investment process.
- Swedfund's mission targets are at the core of Swedfund's strategy and form a basis for our annual plans and target setting for management, departments and all staff.
- Swedfund has developed and implemented an Impact Rating Tool to illustrate the impact drivers of the portfolio and individual investments – to support decision making and balance portfolio impact.

- Data across all three pillars, impact on society, sustainability and financial viability, is collected and verified annually through a sustainability survey and annual reports of portfolio companies. The data is aggregated at portfolio level and published in Swedfund's annual integrated report. Swedfund's portfolio impact and sustainability data reported in the integrated report is audited by an external auditor with equivalent level of confidence as the financial data.
- Indicators that are collected and analysed for portfolio management are harmonized with other Development Finance Institutions, private sector investors or other industry initiatives such as HIPSO, Joint Impact Indicators, the 2X Challenge and the GIIN's IRIS+ catalogue. It is essential for Swedfund to align with relevant industry initiatives and encourage harmonization in order to ensure quality indicators and enable benchmarking of our performance with our peers. Most importantly, it also contributes to the continued knowledge and growth of the industry.

### **PRINCIPLE 3:**

**Establish the Manager's contribution to the achievement of impact.** The Manager shall seek to establish and document a credible narrative on its contribution to the achievement of impact for each investment. Contributions can be made through one or more financial and/or non-financial channels.<sup>1</sup> The narrative should be stated in clear terms and supported, as much as possible, by evidence.

(1) For example, this may include improving the cost of capital, active shareholder engagement, specific financial structuring, assisting with further resource mobilization, providing technical/market advice or capacity building to the investee, and/or helping the investee to meet higher operational standards.

- A prerequisite for all Swedfund's investment operations is the demonstration of additionality. This is assessed through an additionality assessment based on OECDs definition of additionality.
- As mentioned under Principle 1, Swedfund has developed Theories of Change for its overall mission as well as key sectors and focus themes (e.g., gender, climate, digitalisation). Each investment is assessed to formulate a relevant impact narrative in line with the relevant Theory of Change. This narrative is evaluated, as applicable, regularly throughout the investment life cycle e.g., through ex ante evaluations (due diligence), ex post impact studies, monitoring of data, other engagements during the holding period and exit evaluations and studies.
- Swedfund acts as an active owner to achieve desired development effects. In addition to direct financial contribution through its investment, Swedfund aims to mobilise private capital.
- In selected cases, Swedfund applies an incentive system based on impact performance for pricing of a loan for a financial institution or compensation for a fund manager, which is a new method for us to use our leverage and contribute to desired impact outcomes.
- Swedfund maintains ongoing dialogue and close contact with the portfolio companies in order to monitor risks, performance, target attainment and contractual conditions. This is done through visits, active board and committee work and regular consultations. Both internal and third-party audits are conducted. To support portfolio

companies to reach impact targets, technical assistance funding for capacity building can be allocated, including funding to improve impact management and monitoring of our investments.

#### **PRINCIPLE 4:**

**Assess the expected impact of each investment, based on a systematic approach.** For each investment the Manager shall assess, in advance and, where possible, quantify the concrete, positive impact potential deriving from the investment. The assessment should use a suitable results measurement framework that aims to answer these fundamental questions: (1) What is the intended impact? (2) Who experiences the intended impact? (3) How significant is the intended impact? The Manager shall also seek to assess the likelihood of achieving the investment's expected impact. In assessing the likelihood, the Manager shall identify the significant risk factors that could result in the impact varying from ex-ante expectations. In assessing the impact potential, the Manager shall seek evidence to assess the relative size of the challenge addressed within the targeted geographical context. The Manager shall also consider opportunities to increase the impact of the investment. Where possible and relevant for the Manager's strategic intent, the Manager may also consider indirect and systemic impacts. Indicators shall, to the extent possible, be aligned with industry standards and follow best practice.

- All three pillars, impact on society, sustainability and financial viability, are included in all phases of Swedfund's investment process.
- Swedfund's Impact Management System is aligned with the Impact Principles and based in the Impact Management Project's five dimensions of impact.
- All investment proposals to be presented to the Investment Committee for concept clearance are required to first go through an additionality assessment and impact potential assessment. This step ensures that we only invest where there is an explicit need for our funds while also identifying key impact areas and risks to be further assessed during a potential due diligence. The assessment is conducted by dedicated impact experts.
- Results from due diligence presented to the Investment Committee show the alignment with Swedfund's applicable Theory of Change and key Sustainable Development Goals, present a narrative on level of expected impact and answer the following questions: What is the expected impact, Who will experience the impact, How much impact (scale, depth, duration) is expected to occur, Contribution of Swedfund, Level of risk that the desired impact will not be realised.
- To better understand what the main impact drivers of individual investments are and how they contribute to Swedfund's portfolio impact, an Impact Rating Tool has been developed and implemented. It is being used during investment decision and annually to complement other elements of Swedfund's impact assessment.
- In addition, key metrics to be assessed for the baseline and to be monitored during the investment are identified and selected from Swedfund's KPI catalogue. The KPIs are harmonized with other Development Finance Institutions, private sector investors or other industry initiatives such as HIPSO, Joint Impact Indicators, the 2X Challenge

and the GIIN's IRIS+ catalogue. It is essential for Swedfund to align with relevant industry initiatives and encourage harmonization in order to ensure quality indicators and enable benchmarking of our performance with our peers. Key metrics can include portfolio levels indicators that are measured for all investments, sector specific indicators and investment specific indicators.

- To support Swedfund's portfolio companies with processes and methods to strengthen their capacity to systematically manage and measure impact, a standardised Impact Measurement and Management System (IMMS) technical assistance offering has been developed and piloted with selected portfolio companies. Continued development, implementation and uptake of the offering among portfolio companies as well as harmonization with other Development Finance Institutions and private sector investors will be important focus areas going forward.
- A value creation plan based on the assessment of expected impact is created ex-ante as applicable and this together with an ESG Action Plan is anchored to the investment. The aim of the value creation plan is to find ways to accelerate and maximize positive impact. Negative impact is managed through Swedfund's ESG Management System described in Principle 5.

#### **PRINCIPLE 5:**

**Assess, address, monitor, and manage potential negative impacts of each investment.** For each investment the Manager shall seek, as part of a systematic and documented process, to identify and avoid, and if avoidance is not possible, mitigate and manage Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks. Where appropriate, the Manager shall engage with the investee to seek its commitment to take action to address potential gaps in current investee systems, processes, and standards, using an approach aligned with good international industry practice. As part of portfolio management, the Manager shall monitor investees' ESG risk and performance, and where appropriate, engage with the investee to address gaps and unexpected events.

- Swedfund's Ethical Compass states the international commitments, policies, guidelines and transparency obligations that Swedfund has adopted. Swedfund's Policy for Sustainable Development and Anti-Corruption Policies are integral parts of our sustainability framework and determine the requirements we set for our portfolio companies regarding impact and sustainability. The policies are available at our home page: [swedfund-policy-for-sustainable-development\\_2023.pdf](#) and [https://www.swedfund.se/media/2567/swedfund\\_anti-corruption\\_policy.pdf](https://www.swedfund.se/media/2567/swedfund_anti-corruption_policy.pdf)
- Swedfund's sustainability goals imply that:
  - 100% of Swedfund's investments shall act consistently with ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights of Work and ILO Basic Terms and Conditions of Employment within 3 years from the time of the investment. Further, investments are expected to act in compliance with ILO C190 Convention on Violence and Harassment.
  - 100% of portfolio companies have implemented an Environmental and Social Management System within 3 years from the time of the investment, including Human Rights.

- 100% of portfolio companies have implemented an Anti-Corruption Management System within 3 years from the time of the investment.
- ESG and BI considerations are applied to all Swedfund’s investments, and Swedfund’s Environmental and Social Management System and Business Integrity Risk Assessment (BIRA) describes in detail how ESG and BI are included in our investment process to identify and mitigate ESG and BI risks.
- Swedfund categorises all potential investments in four or three risk categories to reflect the potential ESG risks and impacts and BI risks related to the business activities of the investment. The risk categorisation guides our due diligence procedure. The main frameworks and guidelines used during the ESG due diligence are EDFI Harmonised ES Standards, IFC Performance Standards and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP). In addition, we apply specific lenses to assess for example gender and climate issues.
- The Impact Management Project’s nine types of Impact risks provide further guidance to structure our analysis according to (i) Type of impact risk, (ii) Level of impact risk and lastly (iii) a mitigation strategy.
- The improvements that the investments are required to undertake in order to meet our ESG and Impact requirements are summarised in an ESG and/or Impact Action Plan that is included in the investment agreement.
- Once the agreement has been signed and the funds disbursed, Swedfund will follow the implementation of the Action Plans and monitor the performance of the investment through annual surveys, site visits, audits and work through boards and sustainability committees.
- Ahead of the exit process, the investment is analysed on the basis of Swedfund’s three pillars as applicable. During this process, we consider whether further initiatives are necessary, for example to mitigate residual risks.

**PRINCIPLE 6:**

**Monitor the progress of each investment in achieving impact against expectations and respond appropriately.** The Manager shall use the results framework (referenced in Principle 4) to monitor progress toward the achievement of positive impacts in comparison to the expected impact for each investment. Progress shall be monitored using a predefined process for sharing performance data with the investee. To the best extent possible, this shall outline how often data will be collected; the method for data collection; data sources; responsibilities for data collection; and how, and to whom, data will be reported. When monitoring indicates that the investment is no longer expected to achieve its intended impacts, the Manager shall seek to pursue appropriate action. The Manager shall also seek to use the results framework.

- As an active owner, Swedfund collects data to assess performance across its three pillars (see Principle 1). Swedfund’s performance and result management incorporates both quantitative and qualitative data.

- As part of Swedfund’s investment agreements with its clients, Swedfund outlines data collection, methodologies and responsibilities prior to the beginning of monitoring activities and requires that clients report on key indicators each year.
- Both qualitative and quantitative data including portfolio level and sector level indicators is gathered through annual sustainability surveys via our online data collection system, WorldFavor. Other reporting from our portfolio companies, such as fund reports and annual reports, are used as well. The ESG & Impact Team is responsible for collecting and verifying the data.
- Every investment has a dedicated Impact Manager responsible for analysing the data, monitoring the impact performance and proposing plan of action to address potential gaps or development needs.
- Data from each individual investment is inputted to Swedfund’s Impact Rating Tool annually, to monitor the development of the rating and impact performance of individual investments and portfolio.
- Data is aggregated and analysed at portfolio level and the results are published in Swedfund’s annual integrated report. Swedfund’s impact and sustainability data reported in the annual integrated report is audited by an external auditor with equivalent level of confidence as the financial data. Portfolio level metrics are assessed towards Swedfund’s mission goals.
- In addition, Swedfund reports quarterly to the Board of Directors on the portfolio progress including impact related information. We conduct regular internal business reviews to discuss performance regarding our strategy and business plan.

#### **PRINCIPLE 7:**

**Conduct exits considering the effect on sustained impact.** When conducting an exit, the Manager shall, in good faith and consistent with its fiduciary concerns, consider the effect which the timing, structure and process of its exit will have on the sustainability of the impact.

- Swedfund’s investment process includes a pre-exit evaluation, as applicable, including effects on sustained impact and mitigations needed to maintain and sustain impact generation after Swedfund’s active engagement. Need for additional assessments or initiatives including use of technical assistance funding is evaluated. This assessment can affect the timing of the exit, its structure or the choice of buyer.
- Swedfund is a long-term investor with engagements ranging on average between 7-10 years. This provides a significant period to support capacity building and influence aspects believed to be essential in order to generate desired impact in investees. Generated as well as potential impacts are taken into account when considering an exit.
- Debt instruments are self-liquidating in nature. In these cases, Swedfund writes an exit report including an impact evaluation.
- An exit report is documented for all performed exits, including an assessment of Swedfund’s three pillars. The assessment summarizes the expected impacts at the time of investment, compares the actual impact in relation to the baseline and evaluates Swedfund’s contribution to the realized impact. The exit assessment is essential for Swedfund’s continuous learning and improvements of future investment decisions, and has highlighted for example the importance of setting expected impact

outcomes and consistent KPI:s to monitor the outcomes throughout the holding period.

- Some exits are of special interest to understand development effects, i.e. if additional evidence for Theory of Change development will be needed. In these cases, Swedfund will aim to conduct impact studies to harvest learnings.

#### **PRINCIPLE 8:**

**Review, document and improve decisions and processes based on the achievement of impact and lessons learned.** The Manager shall review and document the impact performance of each investment, compare the expected and actual impact, and other positive and negative impacts, and use these findings to improve operational and strategic investment decisions, as well as management processes.

- Swedfund's results are evaluated on a regular basis by independent governmental agencies, committees, researchers and others.
- An annual evaluation of performance towards mission targets is conducted by the Board of Directors and management as a part of Swedfund's integrated reporting.
- With each new commitment Swedfund conducts an ex-ante analysis which states the expected impact to be generated by the investment project. The analysis includes both a quantitative and qualitative assessment and is performed as an integrated part of the due diligence, as applicable. A baseline is established for each investment which subsequently enables a tangible assessment of impact improvements or potential deviations in relation to expectations and targets during the active management phase.
- Regular reviews of the actual impact in individual projects are also conducted based on data and Impact Rating Tool, but also in direct dialogue with the investees, which further supports the identification of potential gaps and needs in order to deliver on targets. In doing so Swedfund can proactively improve the portfolio's impact performance while also learning from portfolio companies and continuously enhancing our support in future projects.
- Swedfund has begun to conduct demand-driven impact studies to better understand the development effects of different investment types and to identify assumptions and conditions that can enhance desired impact. These studies are generally delivered by a third party. Impact studies also enable us to build empirical support for our Theories of Change while identifying additional pathways to deliver development impact.
- Swedfund established an internal audit function in 2020. The first internal audit on our impact management system was conducted in 2020 to further develop our impact assessment, management and evaluation capabilities. All recommendations from the audit were implemented and in 2023 a new internal audit on impact management system was conducted resulting in one medium and one low risk finding for improvement. The implementation of the recommendations will be monitored by Swedfund's Audit Committee.

## PRINCIPLE 9:

**Publicly disclose alignment with the Impact Principles and provide regular independent verification of the alignment.** The Manager shall publicly disclose, on an annual basis, the alignment of its impact management systems with the Principles and, at regular intervals, arrange for independent verification of this alignment. The conclusions of this verification report shall also be publicly disclosed. These disclosures are subject to fiduciary and regulatory concern.

- This Disclosure Note re-affirms the alignment of Swedfund's impact management procedures with the Impact Principles and will be updated annually.
- Swedfund's impact and sustainability data reported in the annual integrated report is audited by an external auditor with equivalent level of confidence as the financial data, meaning our portfolio companies' results regarding impact on society has also undergone an independent audit. Swedfund's annual integrated reports are available at <https://www.swedfund.se/en/about-swedfund/>
- The latest independent verification report from 2023 on the alignment of Swedfund with the Operating Principles for Impact Management is available at <https://www.swedfund.se/media/2756/swedfund-opim-verification-statement-2023.pdf> covering total assets under management.
- The verification will be replicated regularly, likely every three years.
- Information on the current independent verifier is as follows:
  - Name and address: Transcendent Group Stockholm AB, Östermalmstorg 1, 114 42 Stockholm, Sweden
  - Qualifications: "At Transcendent Group we are experts in making the complex straightforward. We are specialists in Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) and we tailor make solutions to fit our client's situations and circumstances. Our services provide security and enable new opportunities for our clients in the public and private sectors, including government agencies, businesses and other organisations in a variety of industries. All internal audit consultants at Transcendent Group have several years of experience and work in accordance with IIA's guidelines. Most consultants hold related certifications, including CIA, CISA, CISM and CFE."
  - Verification process: Swedfund has outsourced its internal audit function to Trancendent Group Stockholm AB. The main purpose of the internal audit is to monitor that Swedfund's operations are in line with guidelines from the Board of Directors. Annual plan for the internal audit is approved the Board and the internal audit reports regularly to Audit Committee.
  - Most recent review: The most recent verification statement was dated November 20th, 2023.

*The information contained in this Disclosure Statement has not been verified or endorsed by the Global Impact Investing Network (“the GIIN”) or the Secretariat or Advisory Board. All statements and/or opinions expressed in these materials are solely the responsibility of the person or entity providing such materials and do not reflect the opinion of the GIIN. The GIIN shall not be responsible for any loss, claim or liability that the person or entity publishing this Disclosure Statement or its investors, Affiliates (as defined below), advisers, employees or agents, or any other third party, may suffer or incur in relation to this Disclosure Statement or the impact investing principles to which it relates. For purposes hereof, “Affiliate” shall mean any individual, entity or other enterprise or organization controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Signatory.*