Armed conflict constitutes one of the main obstacles to sustainable development. Violent conflict causes human suffering and hinders pathways out of poverty. According to OECD, more than three quarters of the world’s poorest lived in contexts affected by conflict and fragility before the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Sida’s total disbursement to Conflict Prevention, Peace and Security in 2020 was just over a billion Swedish kronor. In 2020 the Women, Peace and Security UN Security Council Resolution 1325 celebrated 20 years, marking both successes and continued challenges.

MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT
Violent conflicts lead to human suffering through loss of lives and limbs, displacement, destruction of material assets and increased levels of poverty. For affected societies, conflicts are a major obstacle for pathways out of poverty. Sweden’s long-term commitment to human security, peacebuilding and conflict prevention is articulated in the Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance. The Framework identifies Peaceful and Inclusive Societies as one of eight prioritised thematic areas. Within peaceful and inclusive societies sub-areas are identified like for example increased participation and influence of women and girls in conflict prevention and peace and state-building processes. The Framework establishes that a conflict perspective shall be integrated in Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. For Sida and its implementing partners, this implies that opportunities to integrate conflict prevention, peace and human security shall be identified and that risks of conflict-insensitive practices shall be avoided or mitigated in all activities. Sida’s development cooperation is increasingly directed towards countries affected by conflict and fragility. The four countries receiving most support from Sida in 2020, long-term development cooperation and humanitarian support combined, had all experienced conflict or fragility over the past years; Afghanistan receiving most support followed by Somalia, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD
The number of violent conflicts in the world in 2020 was on a historically high level.\(^1\) The global COVID-19 pandemic caused an increased instability in already fragile contexts.\(^2\) Increased poverty due to economic restrictions and lockdowns have in a number of states led to popular unrest sometimes degenerating into or being met by violence. Economic and political effects of the pandemic have affected peace processes negatively. Yet many of Sida’s partners were able to continue their work by adapting to alternative or digital methods.

In 2020 the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) celebrated 20 years recognizing women’s leadership in and contribution to peace and security. Gender-based inequality is a root cause driving sexual violence in times of conflict and peace and hindering women’s equal participation in peace processes. Only 29 percent of peace agreements from 2019 included some commitments about gender equality. Since its adoption the UNSCR 1325 has been an important advocacy tool for a variety of actors. By the end of 2020 a total of 89 countries had adopted a National Action Plan for its implementation. The pandemic has led to increased gender based violence and that the socio-economic burden on women increased due to lockdowns and restrictions.

2 Melissa Pavlik, (2020) A great and sudden change: The global political violence landscape before and after the Covid-19 pandemic, ACLED

THE GLOBAL GOALS
The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone - and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida’s main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.
Results

SWEDISH SUPPORT

In 2020, Sida’s disbursement to the sector Conflict, peace and security was just above one billion SEK, which represents 4 percent of Sida’s total budget.

An important tool for Sida is the support to the development and implementation of National Action Plans of the UNSCR 1325 on global and country level, for example in Ukraine, Mali and Afghanistan. Sida also reports its contribution to the Swedish National Action Plan, which focuses on 12 priority countries. In 2020, 4 percent of Sida’s total development cooperation, only to those 12 country strategies plus contributions in two regional and four global strategies, consisted of support to women, peace and security. The report shows that support through civil society has increased and that the number of contributions at country level has increased compared to contributions at regional and global level.

PROJECTS AND SUPPORT

A few results emerging from Sida’s support for conflict prevention, peace and security, focusing on the four pillars of the UNSCR 1325:

**Participation:** In Syria Sida supports a dialogue platform to strengthen civil society’s contribution to the Geneva-based peace process. During the pandemic the shift to a digital dialogue led to more women being able to participate and becoming more vocal and active at the meetings.

**Prevention:** In Colombia UN Women has been supported to challenge violent masculinity roles. Former female and male FARC-combatants have been trained in non-violent gender roles and 50 companies have agreed on mechanisms to women’s economic empowerment.

**Protection:** In Mali support to gender integration in the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission has contributed to survivor-focused legislation and policies for compensation for sexual violence in conflict.

**Relief and recovery:** The organisation Geneva Call works to convince non-state armed actors to follow international humanitarian law and international norms about sexual violence in armed conflict and the protection of children in armed conflict. During the pandemic, their work facilitated access to relevant health care for civilians in territories controlled by non-state armed actors in Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Syria.