

This is a summary of an evaluation of conflict sensitivity in Sida's development and humanitarian cooperation. This evaluation considers how Sida's work affects peace and conflict dynamics, what helps or hinders conflict sensitive approaches, and how Sida can strengthen this perspective across its portfolio.

1. WHAT IS CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

Many of the places where Sweden works face political tensions, social divisions or the long lasting effects of violence. In these environments, development cooperation and humanitarian aid can either help calm tensions or unintentionally make them worse. Sida has therefore stated that its work should be conflict sensitive. This involves three steps:



- 1 Understanding the context: Conduct or draw on conflict analysis to identify key actors, dynamics, and conflict drivers.



- 2 Understand the two-way interaction: Assess how interventions influence and are influenced by the conflict context.



- 3 Acting on that understanding: Adapt strategies, contributions, and implementation approach based on conflict sensitivity.

2. WHAT THIS EVALUATION COVERS AND HOW IT WAS DONE

The evaluation examined how conflict sensitivity was integrated across nine Sida strategies and how this contributed to positive/negative outcomes and

impacts. The evaluation used a qualitative design and included case studies in Ethiopia, Iraq and Tanzania.

3. KEY FINDINGS



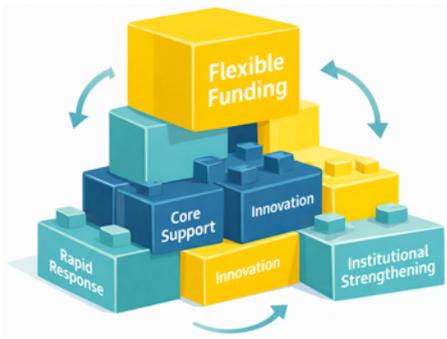
Uneven integration: Conflict sensitivity was strong in Ethiopia and Myanmar, moderate in Iraq and Liberia, and weaker or implicit in Tanzania, Bolivia, Western Balkans Western Balkans/Türkiye, Sustainable Economic Development and Humanitarian Aid.



Adaptations at the project level rarely translate into strategic learning or adjustments. Sida adapted less systematically than partners. Learning often stayed at project level.



Strong partner systems drive quality. Where partners had strong conflict-sensitivity systems, outcomes were more consistent.



Flexible funding drive quality. Where Sida provided flexible funding, outcomes were more consistent.



Monitoring does not track conflict sensitivity. Positive or negative effects were rarely documented, and the conflict prevention marker was misunderstood



Where problems appear, they are rarely captured by formal systems. This means that negative effects happened across several strategies before mitigation was in place and the evaluation may also have missed examples of both negative and positives impacts.



Missed opportunities to enhance positive contributions to peace. Many examples of avoiding harm but fewer examples of efforts to maximise peace – not understood or articulated in many strategies.

SECTION 5 — WHAT IMPACTS WERE OBSERVED



The evaluation found **credible but localised** contributions to cohesion and reduced tensions - **not systemic peace impacts**.

- Reduced tensions between refugees and hosts in Tanzania
- Local cooperatives collectively rehabilitated land, which led to stronger local cohesion in Ethiopia
- Safer participation for women journalists and activists in Iraq



There were also examples of **recurring risks** and **short-term negative impacts** that risked leading to different types of harm.



Gender backlash in Tanzania and Iraq.



Risks of physical, psychological, and digital harm to partners in Ethiopia, Iraq and Tanzania.



Unequal participant selection in Iraq and Tanzania risked leading to heightened social tensions and political divisions.



The Swedish exit from Iraq caused confusion and reputational risks

This is a summary of the evaluation:

'Central Evaluation of Conflict Sensitivity in Sida's Development and Humanitarian Cooperation'.

Authors: André Kahlmeyer, Johanna Lindström, Samantha Smith, Maria Hrimech, Georgia Plank, Nahla Arif, Japhet Makongo, Filmon Hailu.

Consultancy firm: Verian and CMC.

The main report is available at:

<https://www.sida.se/en/about-sida/publications/central-evaluation-of-conflict-sensitivity-in-sidas-development-and-humanitarian-cooperation>

Art.no.: sida62849en, **urn:nbn:** en:Sida-62849en
Ljungbergs tryckeri 2026

AI-generated illustrations are used as conceptual representations of themes discussed in the evaluation.