



Peace and Security

Preventing conflict, sustaining peace
and promoting human security

SUMMARY

The world in 2025 saw increased militarisation and instability and the number of conflicts, wars and fatalities of organised violence were at a record high. Global military expenditure also surged to unprecedented levels. Armed conflict hindered efforts to alleviate poverty, continued to drive food and energy insecurity, and render climate goals unattainable. Whereas fragility has become universal, OECD identified 61 states as experiencing high or extreme levels of fragility. These contexts are home to 25 per cent of the world's population and 72 per cent of the world's extreme poor. They also generate and host the majority of the world's forcibly displaced. This context, the cost of war, the cost-efficiency of conflict prevention as well as the need for a human-centered approach to security has received renewed attention. In 2025, Sida disbursed approximately SEK 1.1 billion to contributions addressing peace and security. This represents about 5 per cent of Sida's total development assistance



DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

In 2025, the world saw increased militarisation and instability, with conflicts, wars and fatalities of organised violence are at a record high.¹ Conflicts where at least one side is a state government account for 80 per cent of global fatalities. Peace agreements and conflicts with ongoing formal mediation processes have declined, probably as an effect of more difficult and internationalised conflict types.² Increased involvement of authoritarian regimes in peace-making implies less inclusive peace processes.³ 2025 research also showed that root causes of conflict are not addressed enough in peace agreements, weakening chances of sustainable peace and development.⁴

Global military expenditure has surged to unprecedented levels, while progress on sustainable development goals is faltering.⁵ Armed conflict continues to hinder poverty, alleviation, drive food and energy insecurity, and render climate goals unattainable. 61 contexts experience high or extreme fragility, home to 72 per cent of the world's extreme poor. 80 per cent of refugees and internally displaced persons originate from these contexts.⁶ While popular-based uprisings historically challenged governments and shaped developments more effectively than armed ones, today's democratic civilian mobilisation fails more often.⁷

Cost of war and cost-efficiency of conflict prevention have received renewed attention due to the increased number of conflicts in recent years.⁸

MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

According to the Swedish government, globally development assistance should contribute effectively to preventing war and armed conflicts, counteracting ongoing aggression, promoting post-conflict security and stabilisation. During 2025, Sida paid out a total of about SEK 1.1 billion in the area of peace and security, which is about 5 per cent of Sida's total disbursements. This calculation does not include support to secondary peacebuilding sectors such as democracy, human rights, gender equality, civil society and other thematic areas which may contribute to structural conflict prevention.

During 2025, Sida carried out core peacebuilding work within 16 strategies and 24 objectives, all contributing to the result 'Promotion of Peaceful Societies and Human Security' within Sida's results-framework. Recurring objectives in strategies are conflict prevention, inclusive peace processes, transitional justice, social cohesion and managing conflicts in a peaceful way.

In addition to targeted contributions, 8.6 per cent of Sida's disbursements in 2025 had peace and security as a principal objective, and 29.2 per cent as a secondary objective. The peace and conflict policy marker includes criteria related to the integration of conflict sensitivity in Sida-supported initiatives. The share of Sida's disbursements that do not meet these criteria has increased from 59 per cent in 2024 to 62 per cent in 2025.

SIDA'S SUPPORT

In 2025, Sida's disbursements to peace and security initiatives continued to contribute to conflict prevention, stabilisation, and inclusive peace processes. The portfolio demonstrates a broad range of activities spanning Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) to transitional justice, accountability, and resilience for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Efforts in mine action, demobilisation, and the management of small arms and light weapons contributed to enhanced security and conditions for return in conflict-affected areas.

1 Shawn Davies, Therése Pettersson, Margareta Sollenberg and Magnus Öberg, Organized violence 1989–2024, and the challenges of identifying civilian victims, *Journal of Peace Research* 2025, Vol. 62(4) 1223–1240

2 Isak Svensson, Global conflict landscape: 2024-2028, p 1.

3 Isak Svensson, Global conflict landscape: 2024-2028, p. 9.

4 EBA 2025, What are they fighting for? An Issue-Based Approach to the analysis and resolution of civil war, Johan Brosché, Sebastian Raattamaa, Kate Lonergan

5 United Nations Secretary General, *The Security We Need*, September 2025

6 States of Fragility Report, OECD, 2025, p 6.

7 Isak Svensson, Global conflict landscape: 2024-2028, p 8.

8 See for example IMF Working Paper, Hannes Mueller, Christopher Rauh, Benjamin Seimon, and Raphael Espinoza, *The Urgency of Conflict Prevention – A Macroeconomic Perspective*, dec 2024.

Results

Strategic partners such as International Alert, Conciliation Resources, and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue strengthened local capacities for dialogue, mediation, and conflict prevention.

In Ukraine, through the Danish Refugee Council, Sida contributed to mine action, resulting in 265,480 m² of land being cleared and nearly 60,000 people receiving mine risk education.⁹

In DR Congo, Sida supported local women's networks through the Life & Peace Institute. These networks have established gender councils and participated in dialogue processes contributing to conflict resolution and the reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs).¹⁰ In Somalia, Sida's support to the UN Joint Fund has helped former al-Shabaab combatants access rehabilitation programs and vocational training¹¹ while in Ethiopia, Sida's support through UNDP to the National Dialogue Commission strengthened institutional capacity and fostered a new dialogue culture supporting peaceful conflict resolution.¹² In Mozambique, Sida supported the Peace Secretariat implementing the 2019 Maputo Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. An evaluation shows that the process helped transform Renamo from an armed opposition into a political actor, contributing to the demobilisation of around 5,200 former combatants and the closure of all 16 Renamo military bases.¹³

In Myanmar, ethnic minority groups, civil society actors, and political groupings have been able to engage in dialogue on common principles for future societal governance, including policy issues such as land rights, health, and gender equality.¹⁴ And in the MENA region EcoPeace promotes trust and cooperation between Jordan, Israel and Palestine on issues related to sustainable use of common natural resources.¹⁵

An external evaluation also concludes that Sida has played a central role in supporting the implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia, between the National Government of Colombia and the FARC, by adapting to the complex context, by including marginalised groups, and through a holistic approach where the different areas of peacebuilding, human rights, democracy, rule of law, gender equality, climate and sustainable use of natural resources were mutually reinforcing.¹⁶

9 2026, Strategy Report, Swedish development cooperation with Ukraine 2023–2027 p. 26

10 2026, Strategy Report, Swedish development cooperation with Democratic Republic of Congo, 2021–2026 p. 20

11 2026, Strategy Report, Swedish development cooperation with Somalia 2018–2025 p. 19

12 2026, Strategy Report, Swedish development cooperation with Ethiopia 2022–2026 p. 30

13 Impact Consulting, 2025, Final evaluation of the Project "Support to the implementation of the Maputo accord for Peace and National Reconciliation"

14 2026, Strategy Report, Swedish development cooperation with Myanmar 2024–2026 p. 11

15 2026, Strategy Report, Swedish development cooperation with the MENA region 2024–2027 p. 32.

16 Niras, 2025, Evaluation of the Swedish Development Cooperation Strategy, Colombia 2021–2025

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