

The year in review – Sida's operations 2016



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Cover image: Jumana Al Bakheet has been involved in a programme, where young people spread knowledge of the effective use of water resources and respect for the environment in the vicinity of the Jordan River. Jumana, who recently completed her bachelor degree at university, is one of many who have completed the programme and are now educating other young people, on these issues. Here, at the 9-year compulsory school she attended, she is talking to students about how much water is used in the preparation of different foods and products.

Photo: Chris Herwig.

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Introduction

During 2016, we experienced how long-term and close Swedish development partnerships can contribute to peaceful solutions in drawn out armed conflicts, such as those in Colombia and Myanmar. In addition, we had the opportunity to contribute to global initiatives for more effective, sustainable and inclusive international aid. But mostly, 2016 was a year marked by armed conflicts, major refugee migrations and a record-breaking global need for humanitarian aid.

Since 2010, armed conflicts in the world have become increasingly violent. Besides the human tragedies that follow in the wake of violence, conflicts hinder work to fight poverty, in the affected regions.

Upwards of 65 million persons are currently fleeing violence and persecution. This is a global refugee crisis that places huge demands on the coordination of humanitarian aid and long-term, conflict prevention measures.

During 2016, Sweden, as the eighth largest bilateral contributor of humanitarian aid, contributed protection and support to persons affected by natural catastrophes or armed conflicts in 56 countries and regions.

A TROUBLING TREND IS THE INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN WORKING FOR GENDER EQUALITY, IN MANY PLACES, IN THE WORLD.

Greater difficulty in working for gender equality

One of the countries that received the most support was Syria. A country where, last autumn, Sweden complemented humanitarian aid with a unique regional strategy, for 2016-2020, which shall strengthen democracy and gender equality, as well as increase respect for human rights.

A troubling trend is the increasing difficulty in working for gender equality, in many places, in the world. Widespread conservative norms, increasing gender-related violence, restricted freedom of speech and shrinking space for civil society place significant limitations on women's opportunities to openly work in and influence society.

During 2016, the extent to which we humans have affected the ecosystem, that we are all dependent on, became more obvious, at the same time as the effects of climate change became increasingly clear. A development that, above all, threatens living conditions for the multitudes living in poverty, worldwide.

But despite these and other difficult challenges, there are those that are going in the right direction. In the long run, we can see that poverty is decreasing, maternal and infant

mortality is declining and access to treatments for diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/aids is improving.

Moreover, international agreements, such as the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development, the UN's International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa and the COP21 Climate Change Conference in Paris are major steps towards sustainable and inclusive development, for all people.

Aid is becoming more effective

In 2016, Sida was tasked with providing the government with expert advice on the actual agreements. The assignment included supporting the government's activities in informing and involving actors, in Swedish society, in the execution of Agenda 2030.

Sida has begun to adapt to these ambitious goals, which challenge us to raise the level of our ambitions, both operationally and in action. We have also contributed to the OECD DAC's work to develop instruments and statistics for measuring the results of aid in relation to the Global Goals, which includes pilot actions in Colombia and Liberia.

Our international aid must become even more effective. Additionally, the complex reality that we often work in needs

SWEDISH AID MUST BE CONTINUOUSLY DEVELOPED AND ADAPTED TO A CHANGING WORLD, IF WE ARE TO BE ABLE TO REACH OUR GOALS.

completely new kinds of solutions. An important area is financing, where we are currently working to develop innovative solutions and strategic collaborations. Strengthening collaboration between humanitarian actions and long-term development work is another thing.

Swedish aid must be continuously developed and adapted to a changing world, if we want to be able to attain our goal, namely that of creating better living conditions for all people who are, today, living in poverty and under oppression.

Gender equality



Gender equality is not just a human right, it is also a condition for reducing poverty and sustaining development. Therefore, it is one of Sida's most important priorities, to ensure that all development partnerships be imbued with a gender perspective. This includes such things as promoting women's political influence, creating opportunities for women to have control over their own economy and protecting women's rights to safety and freedom from violence.

MAIN FOCUS

Sida has a great amount of experience with gender equality, in global development partnerships. In 1983, we submitted our first action plan for female-oriented aid, and since 1996, gender equality has been a priority at Sida. We are a driving force on issues concerning, for example, abortion, freedom from violence, women's rights and men's responsibility and involvement in gender equality.

One way to work for women's and men's equal rights is to support women's rights organisations. Another way to actively promote gender equality issues is through dialogue with our global, regional and local collaboration partners.

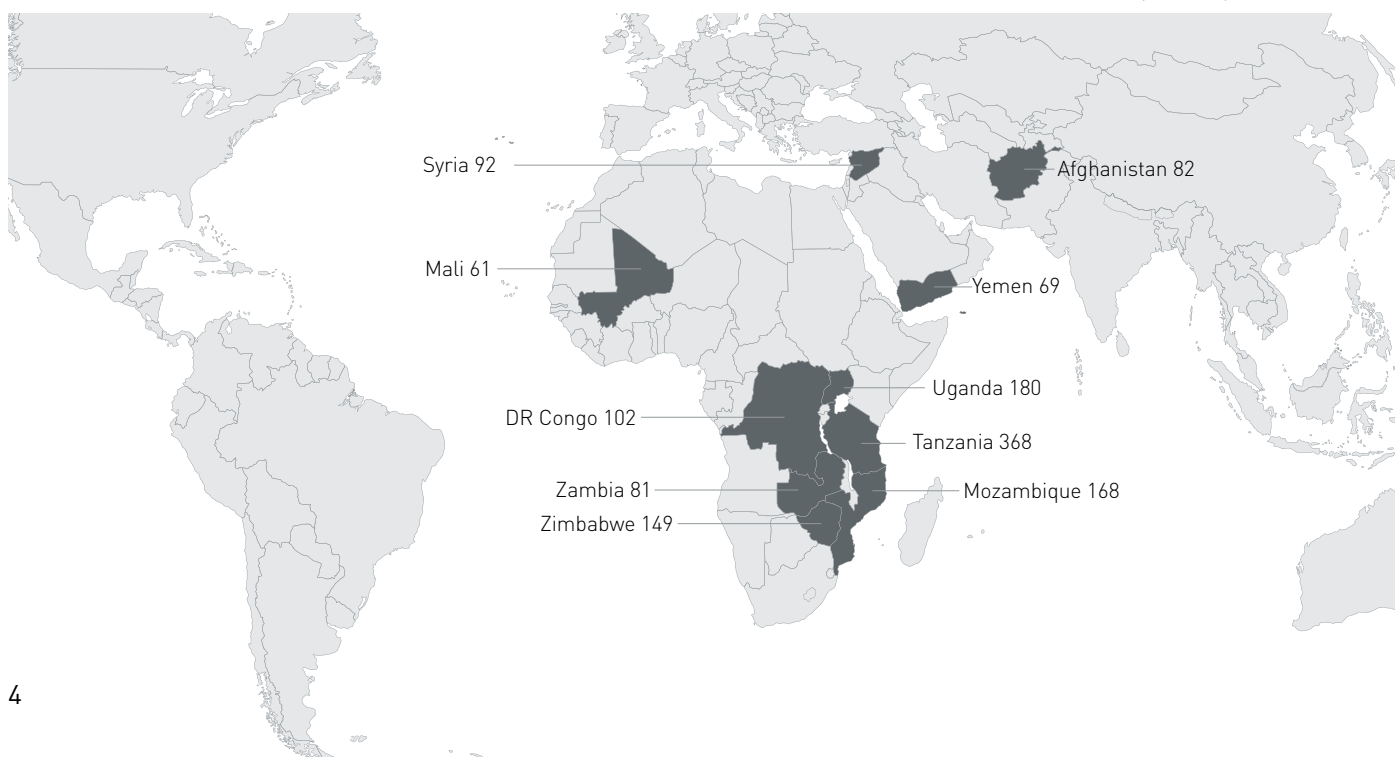
Among other things, we take measures to give women opportunities to control their own economy and working conditions, in what is commonly called economic self-determination. We also want to increase women's political influence and decision-making, ensure that increasing numbers of women and girls are educated, promote women's safety and right to avoid violence, work with men and boys for gender equality, as well as

work for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Contributing to increased gender equality can be the main objective of an intervention, what we call targeted actions. It can also be a sub-objective that is integrated in an intervention, where the main objective is something else. Gender equality is also brought up in dialogues with partner countries and their stakeholders. A so-called gender equality analysis is the basis for how we work with gender equality, in each individual instance.

Commissioned by the government, Sida 2015 presented an action plan for the integration of gender equality, during 2016-2018. The goal of the plan is to increase the advancement of gender equality, in Swedish development partnerships. This includes, among other things, increasing support to interventions, where gender equality is the main objective. This is especially true for the areas of environment and climate, humanitarian aid and the so-called productive sectors, such as market development, farming and infrastructure, as well as energy and roads.

COUNTRIES WITH LARGE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE FROM SIDA FOR GENDER EQUALITY (MSEK)



GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Gender equality has increased, worldwide, during the past few years, if only marginally. One example, is an increase in the percentage of women in global parliaments, which has risen from 14 to 23 per cent, since 2000. Another example, is the increase in girls starting 9-year compulsory school, which increased from 91 to 97 per 100 boys, over the past ten years. The greatest challenge in the future will be to ensure that girls continue their education.

It is also positive that gender equality issues are now on the international agenda, that the number of laws limiting women's rights is decreasing and that, today, there are international agreements on issues that were undiscussable, just 10-20 years ago. And which include such things as violence against women and girls, and women's rights to participate in peace processes.

We know that promotion of gender equality involves both men and women, as patriarchal structures and gender stereotypic norms limit the opportunities for all people to govern their own lives. Thus, it is gratifying that men's involvement also continues to increase globally.

But, there are deeply concerning trends, too. One such trend is that it is becoming increasingly more difficult for organisations that fight for women's rights to finance their

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT WORLDWIDE



Source: IPU

operations. Another trend is that defenders of women's rights are being increasingly exposed to harassment and violence. It is not just happening in countries where extremism is on the rise and democracy shrinking.

In general, 2016 was marked by a number of international acts that challenged Sida to further focus on gender equality, in both action and dialogue. It primarily concerns the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, where equality between the sexes is integrated into all 17 developmental goals and is especially prominent in Goal 5.



600 million women live in countries where gender related violence is not forbidden and seven out of ten have experienced violence from a close relative.



Women in general spend, on average, 2.5 time more time on unpaid work in the home than men do.

SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION

Today, Sida works with targeted actions within all areas of gender equality. One example, is support to the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy's (ICLD) leadership training for 24 female politicians, which is intended to increase women's participation in politics and strengthen the capacities of elected female politicians, in countries where they are highly underrepresented.

Another example is the area of sexuality and reproductive health and rights, where we contribute support to the Nafis organisation, which works to break the deeply embedded tradition of female genital mutilation, among Somalian women. In the work with men and boys for gender equality, we support the Swedish organisation, Men for Gender Equality Sweden's (Män för Jämställdhet) actions in Russia to

decrease men's violence against women. A collaboration that has led to Russian men now being able to be present at the birth of their children.

On the education front, we ensure that girls in rural Afghanistan are given the opportunity to study. We do this by financing local schools in the villages and by supporting education and recruiting of more female teachers. When it comes to women's opportunities for self-determination over their own economy and their working conditions, we contribute for example with support to women in rural areas in countries such as Guatemala and Bolivia.

During 2016, approximately 73 per cent of Sida's collective aid had gender equality as a sub-objective. The share of actions, with gender equality as the main objective, was 17 per cent for the same year.



Swedish support of **MSEK 110** to IPFF contributed to **82 policy or legislative changes** supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights, in 48 countries.



Sweden supports the UN's work to reduce maternal mortality. Since 2009, it has resulted in **35 000 trained midwives**.

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS



1. Zambia. A development programme contributed to strengthening women's political participation and empowerment.

2. DR Congo. Support of projects that work with men's and boy's attitudes on masculinity, in order to move forward with gender equality issues.

3. Ukraine. Support to gender budgeting, which shows, among other things, how public resources are used, based on a gender equality approach.

4. Somalia. Support for work with breaking traditions of genital mutilation among women.

5. Afghanistan. More village schools and female teachers in rural areas has made it possible for more girls to go to school.

6. Guatemala. Swedish support contributed to militaries that were found guilty of murder, disappearances and sexual abuse being found guilty in courts of law.

7. Ethiopia. Support to banks that lend money to female entrepreneurs that helps them with their business concept and plan.

8. Burkina Faso. Support for development of national plans for gender equality.

PEOPLE FIRST

“If more female politicians were given leadership training, we would go far as a nation.”

ANNANCIATAH MAZIKANA, ZIMBABWE

In Zimbabwe, women are severely underrepresented in politics. Annanciatah Mazikana is one of 24 female politicians that have received leadership training in the Sida supported programme, Local Leaders – Capacitating Women in Zimbabwe, which shall increase women's participation in the country's politics and strengthen the capacity of elected female politicians. She is grateful for the opportunity to participate and share experiences, and to have gained a perspective of her role, as a local politician, in her area.



Photo: Kerstin Becker, Sida

ANALYSES/LESSONS LEARNED

From a global perspective, work with gender equality presents many major challenges. Perhaps, the most serious threat to both women and girls is the increasing number of armed conflicts in the world that have resulted in an increased spread of gender related violence.

Another threat is the conservative values and norms that limit women's rights in different ways; whether it involves the right to decide over one's own body, the power to decide how to use their free time or the right to economic resources, such as inheritance and ownership rights.

At the same time, it has become more difficult to work for gender equality, as a result of increasing numbers of countries restricting freedom of speech and limiting civil society and its organisations. It is a development that primarily affects women and their opportunities to work in public. A clear trend, during 2016, was that increasing numbers of women involved in women's rights experienced threats and violence.

A CLEAR TREND, DURING 2016, WAS THAT INCREASING NUMBERS OF WOMEN INVOLVED IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS EXPERIENCED THREATS AND VIOLENCE.

Coordinated actions more effective

Sida currently works to meet these and other challenges through the use of targeted actions. However, as both sectors and work methods overlap each other, it is important to meet the challenges with a holistic approach. It is simply more effective to coordinate interventions, within the different areas.

A good example is the work against gender related violence, which in countries such as Guatemala, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia has been combined with actions within the areas of sexual rights and political influence. The initiative has resulted in increased awareness, changed attitudes and, in some cases, changes in existing laws.

Actions against gender related violence can also be combined with educational support, such as when we, with the aid of the global support organisation, Men Engage, contributed to a change in masculine norms, in boys and men, in Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Underfunded gender equality

Work to strengthen women's empowerment or to decide over their own economy and working conditions, is a worldwide challenge. There are many obstructions in the form of lack of economic resources, widespread gender related violence, unpaid housework as well as conservative values, norms and laws.

From a global perspective, the area is extremely under-

funded. Mapping done in 2012-2013, shows that only 2 per cent of the world's total official national development aid, within the economic sectors, had gender equality as a main objective. A share that Sida want to contribute to raising, for example, through the framework of the Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women project, which targets approximately 70 000 women in rural areas of Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda. The UN Women, the UN's World Food Programme, the WFP, and the UN's Food and Agriculture Programme, FAO, are involved in the initiative that is intended to increase food safety, increase women's incomes and increase their participation and influence in decision-making processes.

Sida's ambition to strengthen women's opportunities to decide over their own economies and their working conditions is beginning to make an impression. In countries such as Rwanda, Zambia, Kenya, Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, support for competence development and dialogue has increased women's opportunities to obtain funding.

Important to support organisations

Another example, is support of a regional programme to promote women's entrepreneurship in Europe, where the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) offers technical support, preferential loans as well as competence development and networks for female entrepreneurs. In addition, we contribute to agricultural development in places such as Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Perhaps the most important conclusion garnered from 2016 is, however, that Sida will need to meet the challenges of gender equality work in an even greater strategic manner, in the future.

First and foremost, by constantly assuming a gender equality perspective, when we hold dialogues with our partners and collaborative countries. But also, by supporting strategic actors in normative and operative change work.

It is important that both Sida and Sweden continue to be driving forces of issues that may be politically sensitive in other assistance providing countries. An especially urgent assignment, in the future, is to try to counteract the shrinking space for women's rights organisations in society, and thereby support them in their work of contributing to the Global Goals according to Agenda 2030.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH SIDA AND SWEDEN CONTINUE TO BE DRIVING FORCES OF ISSUES THAT MAY BE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE IN OTHER ASSISTANCE PROVIDING COUNTRIES.

Environment and climate



People living in poverty are often dependent on natural resources, in their immediate surroundings, which makes them especially vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate changes. Thus, lessening poverty concerns investments in environmental sustainability that ensure that everyone has access to resources. Sida's goal is for all interventions to be imbued with an environmental and climate perspective. The ambition is to further increase the focus of this work in the future, which is reflected in our new environment policy.

MAIN FOCUS

Our surrounding environment, with well-functioning ecosystems and a stable climate, comprises the basis for development and human life. Sustainable management of the earth's resources is, therefore, a condition for reducing poverty and increasing sustainable societies, for current and future generations.

Natural resources and ecosystem services are important to social and economic development. When resources are depleted and ecosystem functions worsen, opportunities, for all of us, are limited. Not least for the many people living in poverty who find themselves in vulnerable situations, with fewer options.

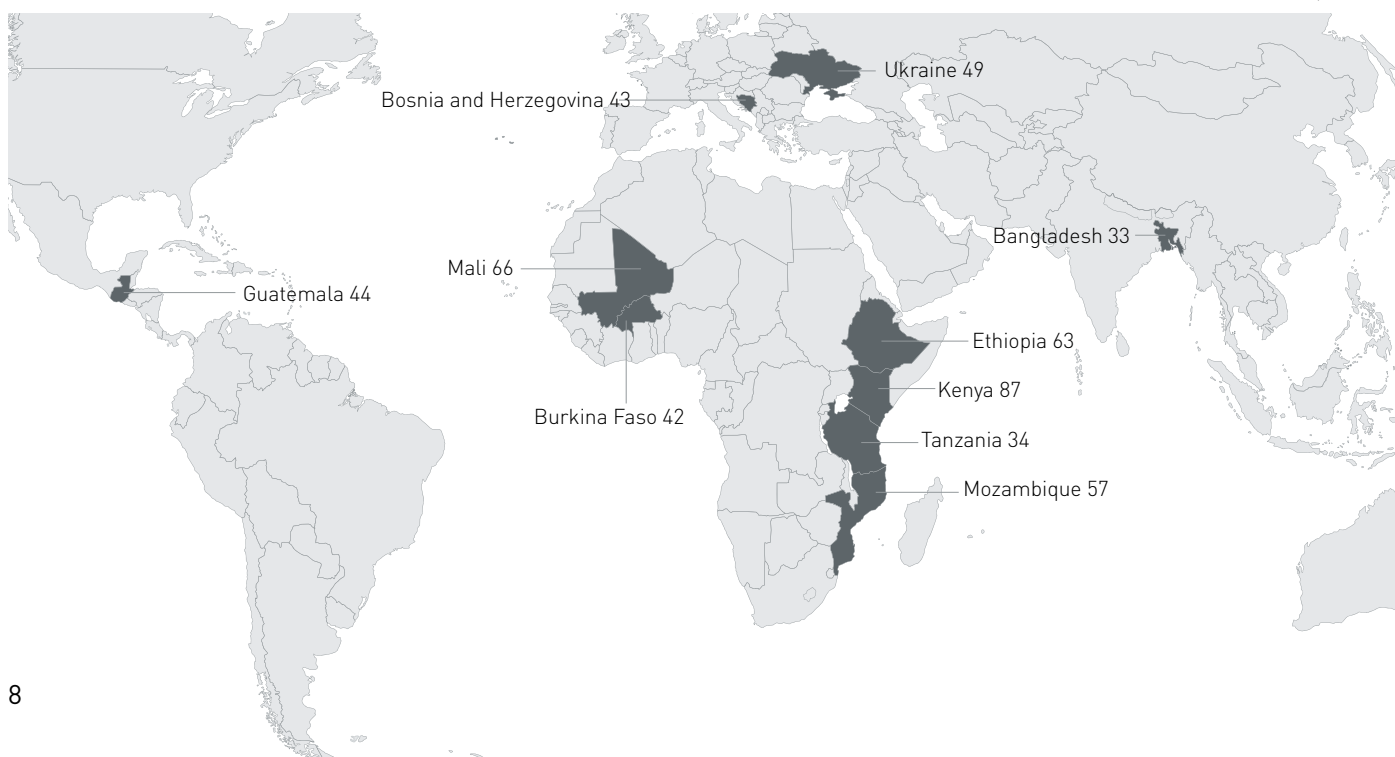
One of our most important tasks is to contribute to a development that reduces both emissions and negative impacts on the environment. Assistance also includes supporting people and communities' efforts to adapt to already changing climates and environmental degradation. Another assignment is to promote collaboration between concerned stakeholders.

Therefore, Sida's work shall be imbued with an environmental and climate perspective and conduct analyses of

environmental aspects, of all actions. These analyses shall, among other things, include if and how an intervention can contribute to environmental sustainability development, as well as how the action – and the concerned target groups – are vulnerable to and can be affected by, for example, climate change. It is also important to ensure that an intervention does not negatively impact the environment.

In practice, this concerns funding the interventions, and disseminating technology and capacity development to improve the living conditions of those living in poverty, without depleting the earth's resources. This can be achieved in a variety of ways. One such goal could be environmentally sustainable food production. It can also concern maintaining biodiversity and ecosystems or ensuring that people have access to clean water and renewable energy. Aid to targeted environment interventions, that is to say where the environment and climate are the main objective, may include support to environmental agencies, environmental organisations and chemicals management.

COUNTRIES WITH LARGE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE FROM SIDA WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (MSEK)



GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

More global trends clearly speak volumes. 2016 was the warmest year since measurements were initiated, at the end of the 1800s: the polar ice cap shrinks every year, the average concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is record high and the amount of plastic in our oceans and seas continue to increase.

Moreover, it is becoming increasingly clear to what extent we, people, have affected the ecosystems and ecosystem services that we are dependent upon, such as clean water, clean air, arable farmland, pollinating insects and spawning grounds for fish.

We stand before a major development, which not only affects the immediate environment around us, but also threatens the very conditions for all life on earth. And the most fragile and vulnerable are the many poverty-stricken peoples that are dependent on local natural resources, for their survival.

The challenges are simply enormous. Fortunately, the international community's efforts to promote sustainable development are greater than ever. Proof of the seriousness of the situation is 2015's far-reaching agreement on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, where environmental and climate issues are particularly addressed in Development Goals 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.



In the Sahel region upwards of **20 million live without access to food**. Of these, 6 million are acutely malnourished.

SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION

Sida's environmental aid currently targets countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Latin America. In addition, we contribute to global, national and local organisations as well as research, business and the public-sector actors.

Assistance may appear in a number of different ways. It may concern supporting the establishment of a national climate fund in Mali or advocating environmentally sustainable waste management in Georgia. In Southeast Asia, we fund knowledge transfer, from the Swedish Chemicals Agency to agencies, on the risks of pesticides in farming. In another project, where we collaborate with the Mekong River Commission, we contribute by ensuring that water resources along the Mekong River are better utilised.

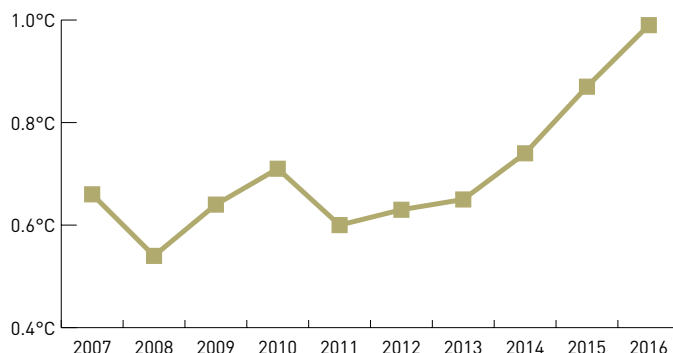
In Kenya, we contribute to the spreading and sales of solar-driven irrigation systems, to small scale farmers.



Of the total **SEK 7.5 billion in aid** targeting environmental sustainability in 2015, **MSEK 127 was assigned to activities** whose main objective was biodiversity.

THE GLOBAL TEMPERATURE INDEX FOR 2007-2016

Changes in the global average temperature, on the surface of the earth, in relation to the average temperature during 1951-1980.



Source: NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies

Another example is the agreement from the COP21 Climate Change Conference in Paris, which encourages the world's countries to contribute to ensuring that global warming is less than two degrees. In November of 2016, Marrakesh, Morocco hosted the International Climate Conference, COP22, which discussed, among other things, how the so-called two-degree goal could be reached. Sida was part of the Swedish delegation that strives for an ambitious execution of the agreement.



Approximately **70 per cent of all fresh water** on earth is currently used in farming and is insufficient to meet the needs.

Another programme, called the Africa Risk Capacity, runs an insurance company, within the framework of the African Union, where countries are able to insure themselves against extreme weather events.

An important assignment is to increase access to sustainable energy. A current example is the Power Africa activity, which provides people in Africa with access to renewable electricity, which also contributes to the reduction of poverty on the continent. In Malawi, we contribute by installing 5 700 solar panels in slums through Slum Dwellers International. It may also include funding of municipal investments in the more effective use of energy and environment projects in the Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia.

During 2016, Sida contributed a total of SEK 8.1 billion in environment related assistance, of which SEK 2.25 billion went to activities where environmental sustainability was the main objective.



The countries that received the largest amount of Sida's climate related aid, in 2015, were Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia and Bolivia.

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS



- 1. Bolivia.** Installation of 20 000 new connections to the conventional sanitation system and 3 400 connections to the climate-friendly sanitation system.
- 2. Mali.** A climate fund was established to integrate climate related issues into policies and planning.
- 3. Gaza.** Better waste water management for over 20 000 people.
- 4. South Africa.** 285 schools are now self-sufficient, regarding vegetables.
- 5. Georgia.** In a Keep Georgia Clean project, 40 000 volunteers cleaned approximately 600 hectares of land.
- 6. Malawi.** Approximately 5 700 solar panels were installed in slum areas.
- 7. Mozambique.** One of the countries where the Power Africa initiative shall double the number of people with access to electricity, over the next ten years.
- 8. Moldavia.** Better access to commercial loans to private persons, as well as to small and medium-sized enterprises, for investments in increased energy efficiency and renewable energy.

PEOPLE FIRST

“Now, we are taking better care of our water, sanitation, refuse collection and our ecosystems and biodiversity.”

KHALIFEH DAYYAT, MAYOR OF DEIR ALLA, JORDAN

Khalifeh Dayyat has participated in environmental education and conferences arranged by the EcoPeace organisation, which works across borders in Jordan, Palestine and Israel on issues that combine the environment and promotion of peace. EcoPeace training activities have resulted in such things as new routines for waste management in the municipalities. In addition, Kahlifeh Dayyat has become an advocate of environmental issues, not the least of which includes showing that collaboration to improve local environments and save water resources is possible in a conflict-affected area.



Photo: Chris Herwig

ANALYSES/LESSONS LEARNED

In 2016, Sida's operations, within the area of environment and climate, were marked by global actions, such as the Global Goals for Sustainable Development according to Agenda 2030, the Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Abeba, and the 2015 COP21 Climate Change Conference held in Paris. Three agreements, which all conclude that both development and human welfare are dependent on our management of ecosystem services in a sustainable way and management of environmentally related risks, such as climate changes.

Sida's work with the environment and climate is currently conducted as a combination of targeted actions, integrated measures and dialogues with bilateral and multilateral cooperation partners. During 2015, Sida funded actions in which environmental sustainability was the main objective or sub-objective, totalled SEK 7.5 billion. Support has gradually declined since 2011, primarily at the regional and bilateral levels, as a comparable amount would have been SEK 8.2 billion.

At the same time, targeted climate related funding has increased. During 2015, support for pollution reduction and/or adaptation reached SEK 2.3 billion. Also, support to biodiversity and ecosystem services has increased. Altogether, MSEK 930 was paid out, in 2015.

Research for sustainable agriculture

The Sweden Textile Water Initiative is an example of an actual sustainability project, and is a collaboration between the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Sida and some 30 textile companies, which shall reduce the textile and leather industry's use of water, energy and chemicals.

AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT, THE FACTORIES REDUCED WATER USE BY 8 PER CENT DURING 2015, WHICH IS COMPARABLE TO THE DAILY WATER REQUIREMENT OF NEARLY 50 MILLION PEOPLE.

Sida contributes half of the project's funding, which currently encompasses 120 factories in India, China, Bangladesh, Turkey and Ethiopia. Noted among the participants were the Swedish fashion companies of Indiska, KappAhl and Lindex.

As a result of the project, the factories reduced water use by 8 per cent, in 2015, which is comparable to the daily water requirement of nearly 50 million people. During the same period, energy use declined by 11 per cent and chemical use by 6 per cent.

Another example is Good Water Neighbours (GWN), which is a project conducted by EcoPeace Middle East in 28 communities with common water sources in Jordan, Israel and

Palestine. So far, the project has led to better water and waste water infrastructures, increased employment opportunities and more sustainable agriculture methods.

Moreover, Good Water Neighbours has offered meeting places for the exchange of cultures, religious beliefs and political opinions, which is in line with the project's goals to promote peace through eco-education, increased awareness and dialogues across borders, between people who have previously had difficulty communicating with one another. Sida is one of the financiers.

Another current example is Sida's support of research for more sustainable agriculture, within the framework of the umbrella organisation, CGIAR. It is an organisation that works with different initiatives to develop better seed and more effective use of natural resources.

EVEN IF SWEDEN IS ALREADY VIEWED AS AN IMPORTANT PARTNER IN THIS AREA, WE CAN AND SHOULD ADDRESS THE ISSUES IN A MORE STRATEGIC WAY, IN DIALOGUES WITH OTHER ACTORS.

Increased ambitions within the environmental field

During 2016, Sida initiated several processes to further strengthen the integration of an environmental and climate perspective, in the operation. For example, many Swedish embassies with development aid operations primarily in Africa, have invested in internal skills training for their employees.

We have also initiated a process to develop and update our environment management system. This includes both work with environmental/climate integration, as well as with the reduction of Sida's direct and individual environmental impact, for example, by reducing CO₂ emissions caused by travel.

The goal is to further strengthen Sida's work in the area of environment and climate. An ambition that also reflects in the environmental policy that was adopted in December 2016. It establishes, among other things, that Sida shall increase both the share and the volume of support to environmentally sustainable development. The environmental policy emphasizes the importance of Sida's role as a dialogue partner and expert authority, which is also reflected in last year's decision to increase the involvement and active participation, in different international processes. For example, within the DAC network, ENVIRONET, which promotes and facilitates integration of environmental and climate changes, in all forms of development partnerships. Even if Sweden is already viewed as an important partner in this area, we can and should address the issues, in a more strategic way, in dialogues with other actors.

Peace and security



Actions for peace and security are completely crucial to development partnerships, both in fighting poverty and attaining the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. During 2016, a significant number of Sida's partner countries found themselves in a conflict or post-conflict situation. But, we also experienced how long-term and sustainable Swedish development aid can contribute to peaceful solutions, even with drawn out armed conflicts. Approximately one third of Sida's actions currently have conflict prevention, peace and security as the main objective or sub-objective.

MAIN FOCUS

Human safety involves no one having to live at risk of violence and uncertainty. Every woman, man, girl and boy has the right to have their basic needs met, which includes protection from all forms of violence and sexual abuse.

This human security is a condition that enables us to exercise our political, social, cultural and economic rights. It is also crucial in the fight against poverty, which is the overall goal of all development partnerships. That is why actions that support peace and security are an important part of our work.

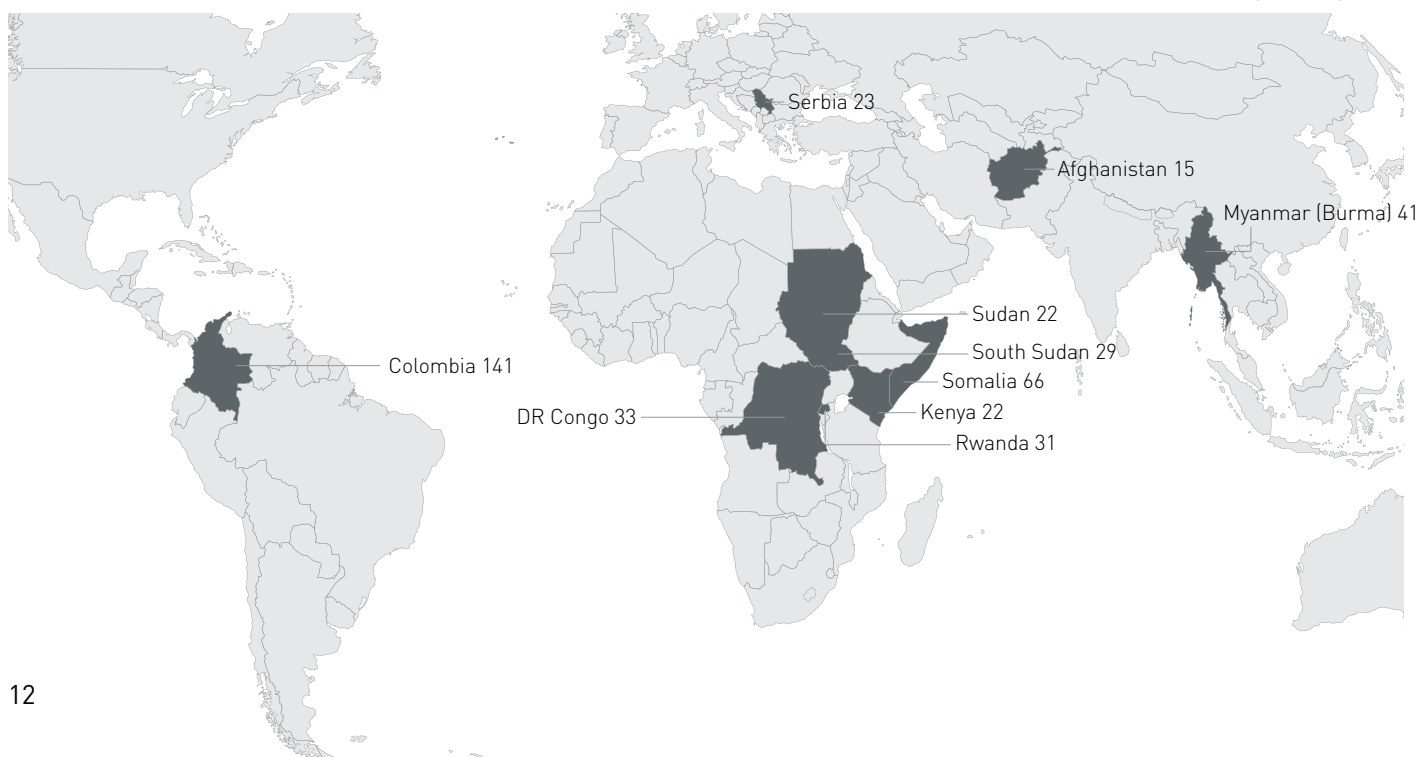
Today, Sida supports peacebuilding actions in a number of countries involved in armed conflicts. In addition, we provide support to preventative actions, to reduce the risk of conflicts escalating and becoming violent. There is more to it than just actions to promote democracy and respect for human rights. Sida actively works to support women's rights organisations and includes women in the peacebuilding efforts.

Sida shall apply a conflict-sensitive approach to its aid.

This means that the agency carefully investigates how a possible intervention should affect the actual society. Is there a risk that the intervention could worsen an ongoing armed conflict? Or does the aid risk fuelling current social and political tensions, which in turn could give rise to violence?

During the 2000s, several important Security Council Resolutions in the area of peace and security have been added. One example is the UN's Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security that establishes that women shall be guaranteed full and equal influence in work to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. It also emphasizes that women and girls are especially vulnerable in conflicts, and therefore, need special protection. Other UN resolutions strengthen the protection of children against violence and abuse in armed conflicts and establishes, among other things, that children cannot be used as soldiers.

COUNTRIES RECEIVING LARGE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE FROM SIDA FOR PEACE AND SECURITY (MSEK)



GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

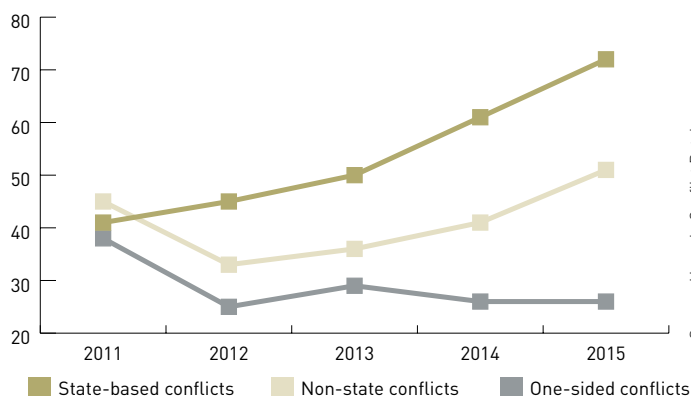
Since 2010, the number of violent conflicts has increased worldwide. In addition to the human tragedies that are the result of violence and destruction, these conflicts also create major challenges to the development of the afflicted areas.

An ever-increasing share of the world's poor currently live in countries that are marked by growing violence, attacks on civilian areas and recurring crimes against international humanitarian laws, such as occurs in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Somalia. But, there are also positive examples on how violent conflicts can have peaceful resolutions, such as has occurred in Colombia and Myanmar, although the path to sustainable peace and development, is still far off.

Other steps in the right direction are the renewed Swedish and international actions to prevent armed conflicts.

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development emphasizes the need for peaceful societies. First and foremost, as a development goal in itself, Goal 16, which focuses on peaceful and inclusive societies as well as renewed actions by the

NUMBER OF CONFLICTS WORLDWIDE



UN's Security Council as support to sustainable peace. But also as an integrated peace and conflict approach, throughout Agenda 2030.



During 2016, **65 million people** found themselves fleeing wars and conflicts. Half of these were children.



When women participate in **peace processes**, probability increases by **20 per cent** that the peace agreement will last, at least two years.

SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION

Approximately one third of Sida's interventions have conflict management, and peace and security as their main objective or sub-objective. In areas where armed conflicts are occurring, it is common that long-term development aid is conducted parallel to acute humanitarian actions, to save lives and alleviate distress.

A current example is Syria, where Sida, in accordance with the strategy for Sweden's aid for 2016-2020, shall target its aid to improving the conditions for future peace and sustainable reconstruction. Which is done through, such things as, strengthening the power of vulnerable groups to act and recover, as well as providing them with better opportunities for a sustainable livelihood. In total, it amounts to aid funding valued at SEK 1.7 billion, over a five-year period.

Another example of peacebuilding actions is the capacity support to the African Union's Peace and Security Council's regional peace work. It can also involve state-building actions, such as aid to the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance that promotes peace in Somalia, by supporting different

groupings' civic engagement in governing institutions, at the local level.

In as women are important to the creation of sustainable peace, Sida consciously works to increase women's active participation in peace processes and long-term peacebuilding. Support of organisations for women's rights has increased over the past few years, especially in countries with weak institutions. Among other things, Sida supports the African organisation, Femmes Afrique Solidarité (FAS), which raises awareness of women's situation in conflicts. In Liberia, Iraq and the West Bank/Gaza, Sida supports the Swedish organisation, Kvinna till Kvinna's (Woman to Woman) collaboration in both the peace- and state-building processes. Other important areas include protection from violence and human rights.

An important part of Sida's work for peace and security involves contributing to the reduction of illegal weapons. At the same time, it can be said that we contribute to a large number of actions within other sectors in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries.



Swedish development aid contributed to **women's active participation** in the formal peace negotiations in Colombia.



Support of the Life & Peace Institute has resulted in **four ceasefire agreements** and **ten peace agreements** between clans in south and central Somalia.

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS



- 1. Georgia.** Dialogues at the grass roots level via the Conciliation Resources organisation.
- 2. Guatemala.** Support for legal processes against those responsible for abuses during armed conflicts.
- 3. Colombia.** Support for work to strengthen civil society's dialogue capacity in areas of ongoing armed conflict.
- 4. Liberia.** Support for Kvinna till Kvinna's (Woman to Woman) work to increase women's opportunities to participate in peace- and state-building processes.
- 5. Iraq.** Support for de-mining through organisations such as the Danish Demining Group (DDG) and the Mines Advisory Group.
- 6. Afghanistan.** Support for development programmes in education, agriculture, health, government administration and infrastructure.
- 7. Somalia.** Support for peace organisations that help clans negotiate peaceful solutions to local land conflicts.
- 8. Myanmar.** Support to the Peace Support Fund, which supports civil society organisations' work with anchoring the peace process among a people.

PEOPLE FIRST

“Now, we are beginning to see the results of our work – that people are changing their perspectives.

MISS PEACE (who in reality has another name, but does not want to use her real name for fear of reprisals)

During the 2012 riots between Buddhists and Muslims in the Rakine State, in Myanmar, people fled to refugee camps, where they still are. When Miss Peace was given the opportunity to start a peace-keeping project, she invested in educating people at the grassroots level, to enable them to gain an increased understanding of each other.

“There is no country with only one, single, ethnic group, and Myanmar has many different ethnic and religious groups,” says Miss Peace.



Photo: André Malerba

ANALYSES/LESSONS LEARNED

In both the Swedish and international development aid sectors, it is becoming increasingly important to understand how violent conflicts affect development. This was the reason that Sida 2015 received revised instructions, from the government, to the effect that the entire operation shall be imbued with an integrated conflict perspective. Hence, we also received better conditions for managing conflict related challenges, in an effective way.

ONE OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGES OF TODAY IS HOW WE ARE TO UNDERSTAND AND MANAGE THE VIOLENT EXTREMISM THAT IS INCREASING, IN LARGE PARTS OF THE WORLD.

In 2016, we saw several examples of how difficult it can be to resolve conflicts and work for peaceful development. This is primarily due to conflicts being increasingly complex and more difficult to analyse. One of the greatest challenges, today, is how we are to understand and manage the violent extremism that is on the rise, in large parts of the world. Especially, in countries such as Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria.

Challenges conducting actions

But, there has also been progress, during the year. One example is the peace agreement between Colombia's government and the FARC guerrillas, which creates the conditions for an end to the 50 plus year armed conflict. Long-term and sustainable Swedish development partnerships contributed to the conflict's peaceful resolution and made it possible for women to actively participate in the peace negotiations. In the future, the strategy for Colombia will primarily focus on rural development, sustainable social services and employment opportunities for young people, that is to say actions that give younger generations reason to hope for a future, in the country.

Another success, in 2016, was the widespread popular support of the peace process in Myanmar. Sida's targeted support to 24 coordinating offices around the country contributed to a reduction of difficulties at the local level. Thus, we were able to contribute to the prevention of conflicts, which is a condition for the continuation of discussions and negotiations, at the national level.

Important steps have also been taken for the protection of women and their inclusion in peace processes, in accordance with the UN's Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and the accompanying resolutions. As an ever-increasing share of Sweden's aid goes to conflict-affected and post-conflict countries, and other countries with weak

governments, it remains difficult and risky for us to conduct the actions.

The situation in Syria is worst

A clear trend, over the past few years, has been that increasing numbers of Sida's partner countries are marked by violent conflicts, economic instability and political violence. Among these countries are Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Syria, which all are part of Sida's ten biggest recipients of aid.

The humanitarian situation in Syria is absolutely the worst; where the past few years' full-scale civil war has forced upwards of 6.3 million people to flee the country and nearly 5 million more to live as refugees, within the country's borders.

Another country affected by conflict is Afghanistan, where in 2016, Sida signed an agreement with the World Bank for a new two-year assistance of SEK 560 million for the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund's development programme for education, agriculture, health, government administration and infrastructure. The goal is to increase trust between the State and its citizens, which, in the long-run, is expected to promote peaceful development of the country.

In Somalia, we have contributed assistance, over a four-year period, to the Life & Peace Institute, whose collaboration with local organisations is behind four ceasefire agreements and ten peace agreements, between different clans in the southern and central parts of the country. The peace agreements did not just reduce fighting, but they have also resulted in fewer roadblocks, given people greater freedom of movement, increased trade over clan borders and allowed internally displaced persons the opportunity to return home.

Women, peace and security are prioritised

During 2016, Sida actively contributed to the development of Sweden's new national action plan for women, peace and security, which is a prioritised issue of the current government's feminist foreign policy. It is a plan that prioritises twelve countries, where Sida is deeply committed to the issue, and is one of the many examples of how we have adapted to current global trends. And which includes such things as increased focus on conflict preventative actions and targeted strategic and long-term measures as a support to a peaceful and inclusive society. At the same time, we have continued to prioritise the protection of women and their meaningful participation in peace processes, within the framework of the implementation of the agenda for women, peace and security.

Humanitarian



The worldwide humanitarian need continued to grow in 2016, with upwards of 65 million people fleeing ongoing wars or conflicts. During the year, Sida contributed SEK 3.6 billion to the protection and support of people affected by natural catastrophes or conflicts, which is equivalent to 55 per cent of Sweden's total humanitarian aid, of SEK 6.5 billion. Most of the aid went to the Sahel region, Syria and South Sudan.

MAIN FOCUS

The goal of humanitarian aid is to save lives, alleviate distress and establish dignity to people who are suffering under armed conflicts, natural disasters or other types of serious crises. In general, aid consists of both material aid and protective actions.

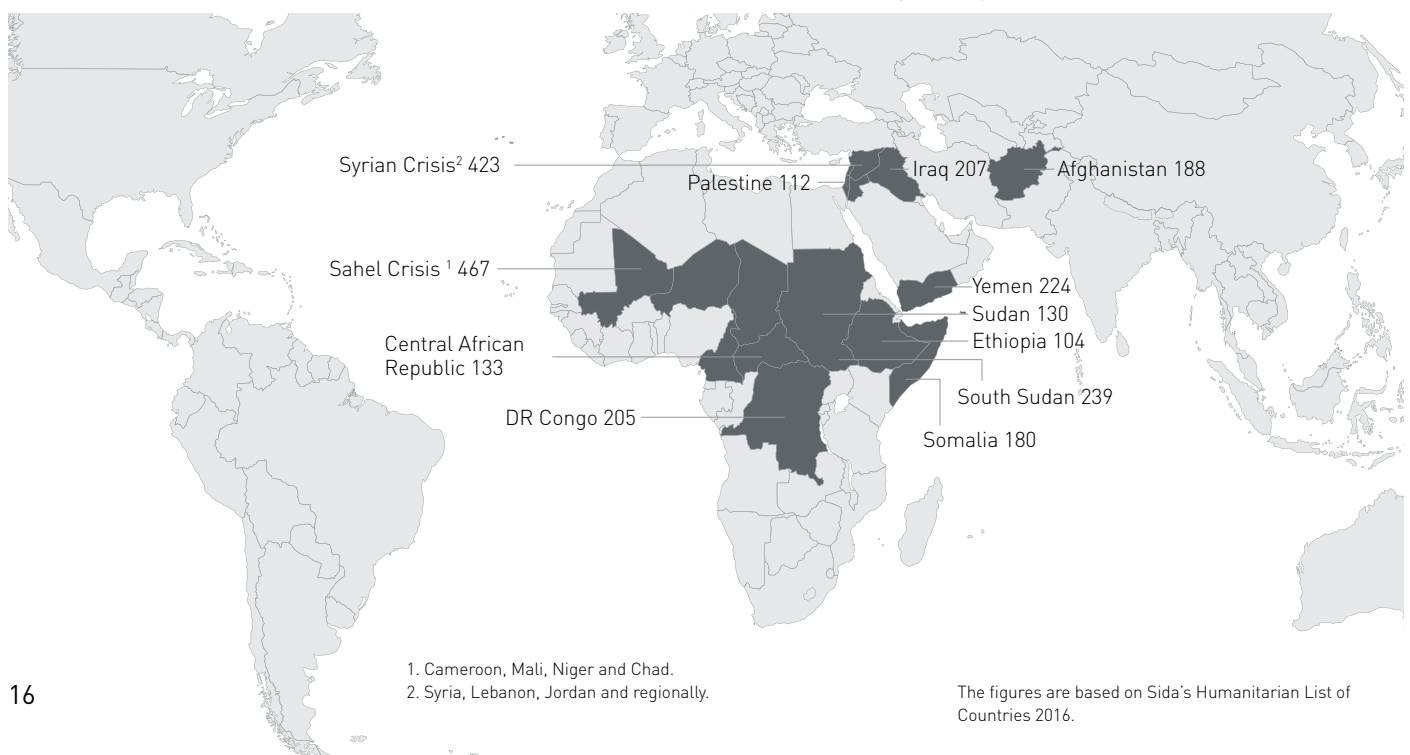
Material aid can include food, water, shelter, nutrition, sanitation and health care. A protective action can include evacuation, being registered as a refugee and receiving temporary housing. In as humanitarian aid is based on international agreements where the primary goal is to alleviate acute distress, the support often ceases when the immediate distress has been alleviated.

Sida's humanitarian aid is guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. This means that we help alleviate human suffering

wherever it arises. Our aid shall be based on the needs of those in distress, without regard to their gender, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation. Humanitarian aid must not take sides, in an armed conflict. Moreover, all of our actions shall integrate a gender equality perspective, where we prioritize protection against gender-based violence, in complete accordance with international human rights.

The greater portion of humanitarian aid consists of acute actions. However, preventative work is also important. This includes, among other things, strengthening people's and society's ability to protect and recover from crises and catastrophes. That is why Sida actively works to strengthen the interaction between humanitarian actions and the more long-term development partnerships.

CRISES RECEIVING THE GREATEST HUMANITARIAN FUNDING IN 2016 (MSEK)



GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

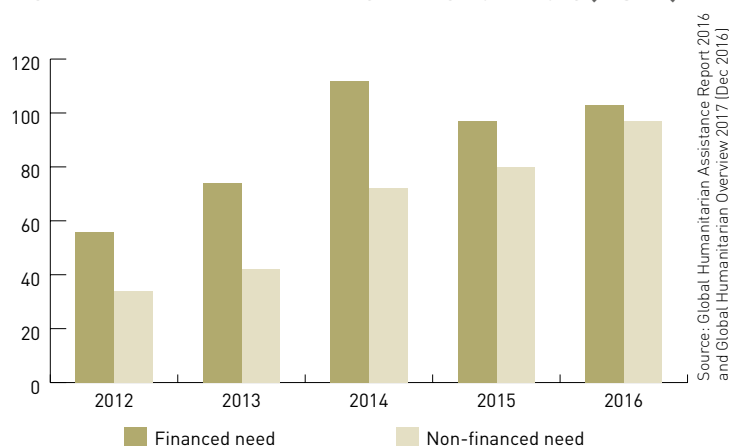
The increasing number of wars and conflicts, in the world, has led to a greater need of humanitarian actions, than ever before. A sign of this is the doubling of the target groups, since 2012, for the humanitarian aid coordinated by the UN.

Approximately 130 million people worldwide currently need humanitarian protection and aid. Of these, upwards of 65 million are fleeing armed conflicts, which is the highest number, since the days of the second world war. Approximately half of all refugees are children.

The humanitarian sector has never contributed to so many people, before. But, there are no longer resources or capacity to handle the comprehensive and often complex needs. The result is that the gap between need and financial resources is increasing to widen, despite donors constantly adding more money. A measure of this is that the UN's humanitarian organisations were able to gather approximately 50 per cent of the requested aid, the so-called humanitarian appeals, in 2016. For this reason, we must prioritize more than we have, ever before.

In as a humanitarian crisis affects all sectors of a society, the supportive actions encompass all 17 of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

HUMANITARIAN NEED AND FUNDING 2012-2016 (MSEK)



Just over **80 per cent of all humanitarian work** is conducted in areas involved in ongoing conflicts.



According to the UN, the cost of the total global need of humanitarian aid, in 2016, nearly reached the equivalent of **SEK 200 billion**.

SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION

In 2016, Swedish humanitarian aid contributed to the protection and aid of people, who had been affected by natural catastrophes or armed conflicts, in 56 countries and regions. With a combined aid of SEK 6.5 billion, Sweden was the world's eighth largest, bilateral, humanitarian donor, following such countries as USA, Germany and Great Britain. Sida's share of the support amounted to SEK 3.6 billion, which is approximately 55 per cent. The strength behind Sida's work is that aid is based on objective and impartial judgement and funds are quickly paid out, to ensure a timely response.

Multilateral organisations, such as the UN's development programme UNDP, OCHA's humanitarian country-based fund and the UN's Refugee Agency UNHCR handled approximately 51 per cent of the assistance. Approximately 25 per cent was provided through organisations, such as Save the Children and Doctors Without Borders, 20 per cent through the Red Cross and 4 per cent through the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB).

The crises that received the most aid, during 2016, were conflict-related refugee and internal refugee crises. One example is the civil war in Syria, where Sida has contributed MSEK 423 for lifesaving actions and protection programmes, within the country's borders, as well as humanitarian actions for refugees, in neighbouring countries.

Another example is South Sudan, where the greater portion of Sida's humanitarian aid went to support the UN's humanitarian country-based fund, the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund, which primarily focuses on lifesaving actions for vulnerable groups, such as women, children and the elderly.

In Yemen, humanitarian aid also goes to lifesaving actions and protection of vulnerable groups. Some of the support goes by way of the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, which, among other things establishes temporary schools, safeguards against and prevents malnourishment in children and expectant mothers, provides people with sanitation and clean water as well as protects children from human trafficking and abuse.



In 2016, Sida's humanitarian aid contributed **MSEK 467 to the Sahel region** to save peoples' lives and help them to be better equipped in the future.



Swedish humanitarian aid provided **protection and aid** to people affected by catastrophes or conflicts in **56 countries and regions**.

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS



- 1. Chad.** Aid to actions that increase independence and reduce aid dependency among 400 000 refugees.
- 2. Yemen.** Actions that prevent malnourishment in children and expecting mothers and secures access to clean water and sanitation.
- 3. Central African Republic.** Protection of children at risk of being sexually abused or recruited as child soldiers.
- 4. Cameroon.** Refugees in the northern part of the country were given access to water, food and a roof over their heads.
- 5. Sudan.** Education and protective actions for children and other vulnerable groups.
- 6. Syria.** Lifesaving measures for and protection of people affected by the civil war. Cash-based aid to 500 000 refugees and other people in crisis.
- 7. Ethiopia.** Actions that ensure access to food for the many people affected by the severe drought.
- 8. South Sudan.** Lifesaving actions for children and the elderly, as well as measures to fight sexual and gender-based violence.

PEOPLE FIRST

“ I don't remember Syria, but I remember the feeling of living in peace.

MOHAMMAD, 10, LIVES WITH HIS FAMILY IN A REFUGEE CAMP IN JORDAN

When Mohammad found out that he would be able to start school again, he regained his energy and was delighted by how great it would be to have something to do with his time, something meaningful. He attends a so-called Catch-up school, where 25 000 Syrian refugee children, between the ages of 9-12, are able to receive help in resuming their education. Sida provides SEK 30 million of support to educational actions.



Photo: Makmende media

ANALYSES/LESSONS LEARNED

One of the most important events of 2016, was the international meeting of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, where 9 000 participants from all over the world, including representatives from Sweden, gathered to find solutions to current humanitarian challenges.

An important conclusion from the meeting was that humanitarian aid must be more effective in order to be able to reach more people in need of protection and support. Another conclusion was that the interplay between humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation must be improved, if we are to be able to reduce the humanitarian needs in the world.

One concrete result of the meeting was the so-called Grand Bargain agreement for more effective funding. Humanitarian donors and organisations agreed upon such things as the increase of cash-based aid, offering multi-annual financing and the strengthening of both local and national actors.

Another important conclusion of 2016, is that we must be better at adapting our aid to a reality where human needs are constantly changing. An insight that led to Sida providing a relatively large amount of aid to the UN organ's humanitarian country-based funds, that meet the needs of the most vulnerable people during drawn out or recurring crises, in a flexible way, such as through local actors that have good local knowledge and humanitarian access.

Another flexible aid is our cash-based aid, which can cover humanitarian needs, within a wide range of sectors. With a so-called multi-sectorial aid we were able to provide 400 000 Palestinian refugees who were affected by the war in Syria with the most basic needs, last autumn.

Fast actions in 50 crises

A portion of Sida's annual humanitarian budget is reserved for suddenly occurring humanitarian crises and deteriorated situations, in larger ongoing crises. For these situations, we, together with our partner organisations, have established a so-called rapid response mechanism that makes it possible to fund actions anywhere in the world, within all lifesaving areas, within a 24-hour period. Last autumn, this mechanism enabled humanitarian organisations to execute over 90 rapid responses, in over 50 different crises.

One of the biggest challenges in humanitarian aid is that of gaining access to the affected areas. This is because an increasing amount of the work now occurs in countries or regions where armed conflicts are underway, and where international human rights are not respected, such as in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Sudan or Somalia.

For aid to have any possibility of reaching those most affected, Sida contributes to measures that provide humanitarian organisations with better access to areas in crisis and that are difficult to reach. These actions shall, first and foremost, guarantee the safety of the volunteers and contribute to finding local cooperation partners.

A portion of Sida's aid goes to organisations with a so-called Protection Mandate, such as the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). It is a form of aid that, last autumn, meant that hundreds of thousands of refugees and internal refugees in Syria and South Sudan were able to receive protection and aid.

Increasingly important to strengthen the response capacity

Another important area is support of interventions that strengthen the ability of countries and regions to handle crises, their so-called response capacity. A kind of development aid that increases in significance, as it becomes increasingly difficult for international humanitarian organisations to enter areas in crisis. In 2016, Sida's contribution to the country-based fund in Turkey enabled, for instance, several local and national organisations to receive quick and flexible funding to meet unforeseen needs, onsite in Syria.

Moreover, humanitarian aid can help to strengthen the resilience or resistance, to crises and catastrophes, of persons affected by crises. An example of this is last year's actions in Chad, which helped increase refugees' independence and break their dependence on aid. Primarily, by offering them new opportunities to support themselves.

**THIS INCLUDES SUCH THINGS AS
CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN
THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN
HUMANITARIAN AND LONG-TERM
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS TO
REDUCE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS,
IN THE LONG-RUN.**

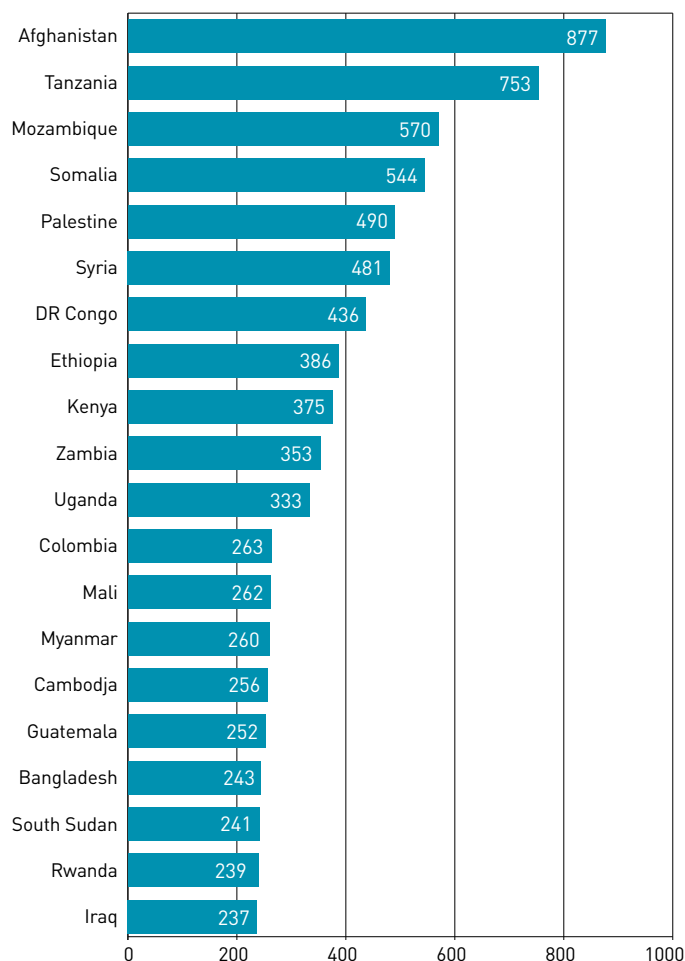
Aid to Chad is one of the many examples of how Sida's humanitarian actions, in 2016, have contributed to saving lives, alleviating distress and protecting human dignity, for millions of the world's most vulnerable people, in connection with conflicts and catastrophes.

A future challenge will be to execute the actions that were agreed upon at the World Humanitarian Summit, in the so-called Grand Bargain agreement. It involves such things as strengthening the capacity to meet the needs of the most acute phases, as well as continuing to strengthen the interplay between humanitarian and long-term development partnerships, in order to be able to reduce humanitarian needs in the long-run, which is also set out in Sida's new Humanitarian Strategy for 2017-2019.

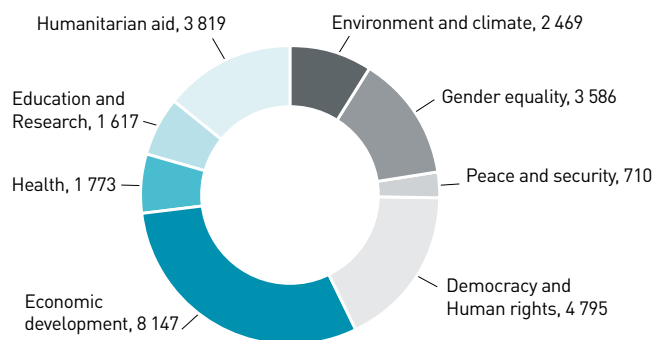
The year in review – a summary

The goal of Sweden's international aid is to improve the living conditions for people living in poverty and under oppression. Sida is Sweden's development cooperation agency and is governed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2016, Sida's disposable assets for aid operations amounted to MSEK 29 870. Approximately MSEK 18 670 went by way of Sida to bilateral development cooperation and reform cooperation in Eastern Europe, and to humanitarian aid. In addition to this, we also dispensed more than MSEK 64 to cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. Approximately MSEK 11 265 went by way of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (UD) to multilateral organisations. In December, Sida's operations employed 655 annual work units, 69 per cent women and 31 per cent men. During the year, we worked on the execution of the full 43 strategies decided upon by the government.

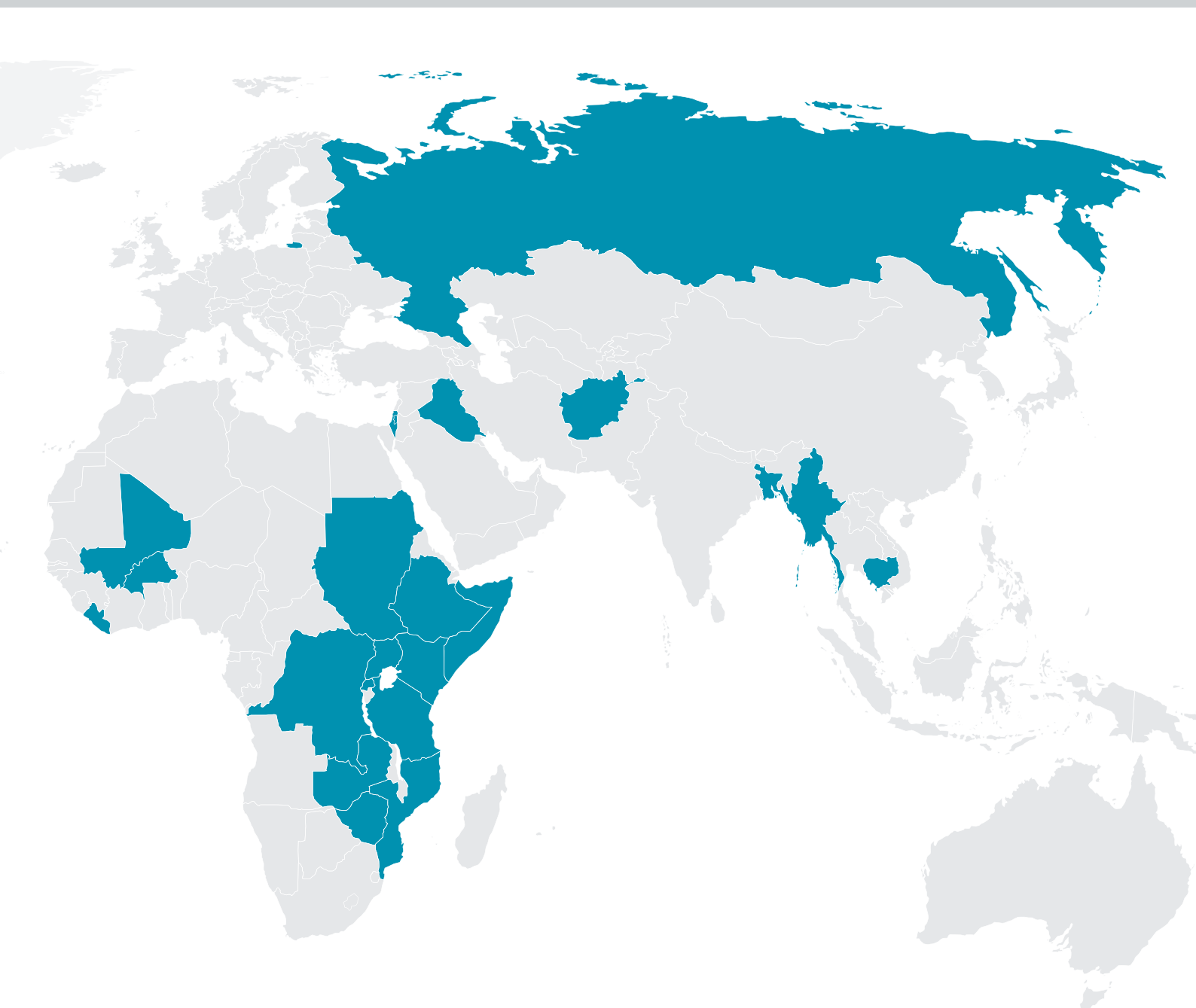
SIDA'S OPERATIONS, PAYMENTS PER COUNTRY 2016 (MSEK)



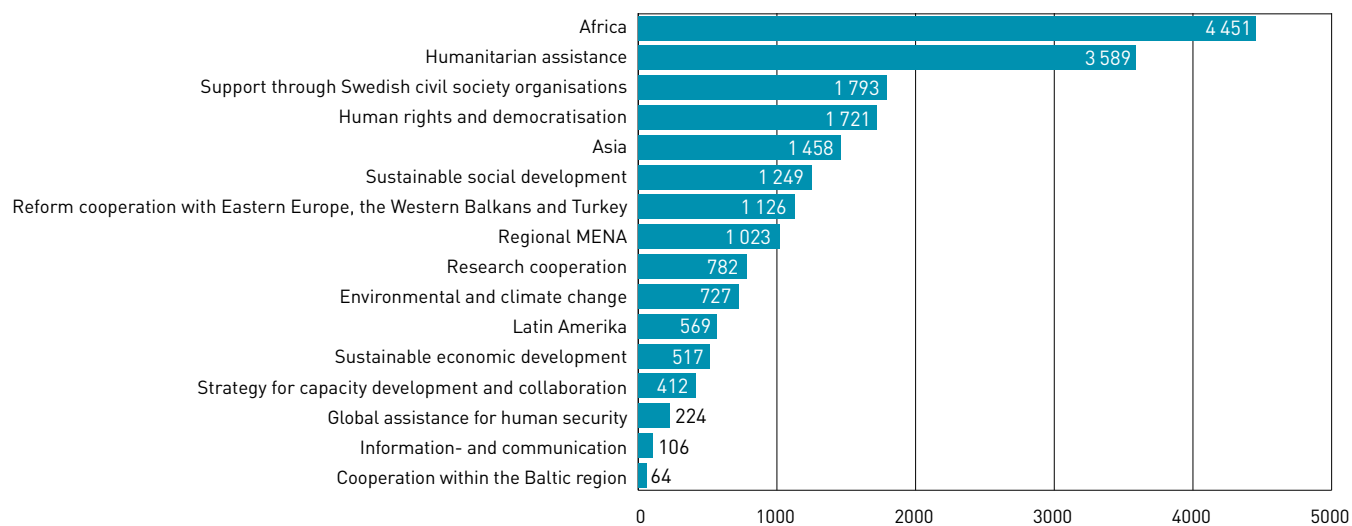
DEVELOPMENT AID DIVIDED BY THEMATIC AREA 2016 (MSEK)



An intervention can fall within several areas. The diagram shows the mutual relationship.



SIDA'S OPERATIONS, PAYMENTS PER APPROPRIATION 2016 (MSEK)



Afterword and further reading

In this report, we have briefly discussed Sida's mission as Sweden's agency for development cooperation and how we have managed the tax funds that were placed at our disposal, in 2016. With personal stories placed in context, we hope that we have provided a picture of how development aid provides results for people living in poverty and under oppression.

Each year, Sida submits an annual report to the government that presents how the year's activities have gone. It includes an accounting of the budget, executed assignments and an analysis of the operation. This formal annual report contains the profit and loss account and management analysis per strategy, summary of thematic accounting, information on other activities as well as financial documents.

This document is a complement to the formal Annual Report and focuses on four strategic areas within Sida's operations, during the past year: Gender equality, Environment and climate, Peace and security as well as Humanitarian aid.

Below are reading suggestions anyone wanting to learn more about what we do and how we are contributing to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development:

[Sida's gender equality actions](#)

[Sida's environment and climate actions](#)

[Sida's work for peace and security](#)

[Sida's humanitarian aid](#)

[More personal stories](#)

The Global Goals



Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms, everywhere.



Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.



Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equal education for all and promote lifelong learning.



Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Goal 6. Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.



Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Goal 8. Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work conditions for all.



Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Goal 11. Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



Goal 15. Protect, replenish and promote sustainable use of land-based ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.



Goal 16. Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, maintain access to justice for all and build up effective and inclusive institutions with accountability at all levels.



Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



The objective of Swedish development cooperation is to create opportunities for people living in poverty and under oppression, to improve their living conditions.

We strive to lead the change to end poverty.

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Address: 105 25 Stockholm

Visiting address: Valhallavägen 199

Telephone: +46 (0)8-698 50 00. Fax: +46 (0)8-20 88 64.

E-mail: sida@sida.se www.sida.se

