

The Year in Review – Sida's Activities in 2017



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Cover photo: Aden Abdi with his two daughters, Sabrina (7) and Fathi (8). Aden Abdi is a farmer in Dawaad, a village in the Eyl District in the Puntland State of Somalia. Aden attended an agricultural training programme organised as part of the Somalia Resilience Programme. His standard of living has now been improved, and he can afford to both support his family and pay school fees for his seven children. Photo: The Somalia Resilience Programme

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This document provides a concise overview of Sida's missions as Sweden's official aid agency, as well as a summary of how we have invested the funds made available to us in 2017. By recounting and contextualising personal stories, we hope to provide a picture of how aid yields results for people living in poverty and under oppression.

Each year, Sida submits an annual report to the government which provides an account of how the year's work has gone. The report includes a review of the budget, completed assignments, and an analysis of the agency's activities. This formal annual report includes profit and loss statements and financial analyses for investment strategies, comprehensive thematic reports, information about other operations, and financial documents.

This document complements the formal annual report and focuses on four strategic areas of activity in which Sida was involved during the past year: Gender Equality, The Environment and Climate Change, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, and Humanitarian Aid.

Read more about what we do and how our activities contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development at **www.sida.se**

Direct link to Sida's 2017 Annual Report: **www.sida.se/Svenska/publikationer/159684/sidas-arsredovisning-2017/**

The world is making progress

The world is constantly changing. Here at Sida, we see evidence of this every day. With the entire world as our area of operation, we strive to make a difference. We know that our efforts contribute to positive changes for impoverished and vulnerable people around the world, and look to the future with confidence. This is an account of the undertakings to which we contributed in 2017.

To achieve results, it is important to truly understand the context in which we operate. Therefore, we carry out both continuous external environment analyses and comprehensive vision and strategy work. In 2017 we developed a tool for multidimensional poverty analysis that will help us to better understand how the various causes of poverty interconnect and influence each other.

A changing aid architecture

In recent years, our work has been marked by changes to what is known as the aid architecture. New donors continue to come forward, and we often seek new alliances in order to strengthen our efforts and collaborations.

One form of action that is likely to increase in scope is aid for strengthening the quality of governance and public administration in different countries. Anti-corruption work is one clear example of such efforts. Institutions that are responsible for preventing and combating corruption may sometimes also be part of the problem. This is often due to insufficient capacity, but the reason may also be a lack of transparency, the abuse of power, or too great a distance from the citizens the institution is meant to serve.

It takes time for countries to build independent and professional institutions. Thanks to our strong management tradition and the long-term perspective of our efforts, Swedish aid work can make a valuable contribution in this area.

Dramatic events

Many conflicts and disasters require emergency measures. In 2017, we saw images from conflict-ridden Yemen and South Sudan, where the civilian population was afflicted by famine and drastically deteriorated living conditions. In Eastern Bangladesh, hundreds of thousands of people from the Rohingya Muslim minority fled violence and persecution.

Under-funding and a lack of security for humanitarian aid organisations create the risk that humanitarian crises may become chronic. Sida's work to strengthen the links between humanitarian assistance and long-term development co-operation is a priority, and continues with unabated force.

Other processes progress more slowly, but have a major impact. Climate change and changing ecosystems are worsening people's lives and impairing their livelihoods. Sida

continually and actively works to ensure the constant integration of an environmental and climate perspective in our work – a requirement which is imposed on all our activities.

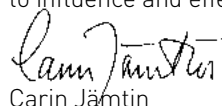
The same applies to our work to promote girls' and women's rights, in which the right to sexual and reproductive health is central. We are making progress in many areas, but unfortunately we also witnessed setbacks in 2017. The United States reintroduced and extended the Mexico City Policy, which means that federal aid to non-governmental organisations that perform safe abortions has ceased.

Even organisations that work to effect change and provide information about the right to abortion are covered by the decision. As a direct result, many organisations ceased their work and shut down their clinics in impoverished countries. This not only affects women's rights to safe abortion; it also limits their access to contraceptive advice and maternal health care.

Positive signs – remember Hans Rosling

While it is necessary to pay attention to all the conflicts, crises and challenges, it is also important to balance the picture. We must remember what Hans Rosling so often reminded others: The world is making advances – big ones. According to the United Nations' annual reporting on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, the percentage and number of economically impoverished people in the world continue to fall. Between 1999 and 2013, the number of extremely poor people (those living on less than 1.90 USD a day) fell from 1.7 billion to 767 million. Progress is not solely measured by increased incomes; people are also becoming healthier, living longer, are better educated and are finding employment.

In a situation in which democratic space is threatened globally from many sides, development co-operation is more important than ever. By integrating an environmental and climate perspective into our work to promote human rights and improved living conditions, respect for the rule of law, gender equality, freedom of expression and anti-corruption, we establish a foundation of trust that gives us great opportunities to influence and effect change.



Carin Jämtin
Director-General, Sida



Sida's Director-General Carin Jämtin meets pupils and teachers at Majimatitu Primary School in Dar es Salaam.

Photo: Rob Beechey

Agenda 2030 and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development were adopted by the world's heads of state and government on September 25, 2015 at the UN Summit in New York. The goals are part of the historic Agenda 2030 resolution, in which all 193 UN Member States committed to working together to achieve socially, environmentally and economically sustainable development by the year 2030. With 17 goals and 169 milestones, it is the most ambitious agenda for sustainable development ever adopted. Until the year 2030, it will lead the world in the direction of peaceful and sustainable development.

The eradication of poverty everywhere is the greatest global challenge. It is also an absolute requirement for achieving sustainable development. Reducing gender inequalities, ensuring that everyone has access to a good education as well as clean water and sanitation, promoting peace and creating sustainable growth are among the other goals that will decide our future. The Global Goals include everyone, and anyone can contribute to achieving them. The goals are mutually reinforcing and the agenda is therefore indivisible. Sida's most important contribution is to conduct development aid, which reduces poverty and saves lives. Together, we contribute to a better future in which no one is left behind.



Gender equality



Equality is achieved when men and women, girls and boys have equal rights, life chances and opportunities to shape their own lives and contribute to society. This is not only a human right but also a prerequisite for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Therefore, one of Sida's most important priorities is to ensure that all development aid is imbued with a gender equality perspective.

MAIN FOCUS

For many years, Sida has been a driving force in strengthening the rights of women and girls and advancing female empowerment. In 1983, we adopted the first action plan for woman-oriented aid, and gender equality has been a priority of Swedish development co-operation work since 1996. We carry out actions that strengthen women's opportunities to make independent decisions about their finances and working conditions. Other priority areas include increasing women's political participation and decision-making, ensuring that more women and girls receive an education, furthering women's safety and their right to avoid violence, working with men and boys to advance gender equality, and promoting women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

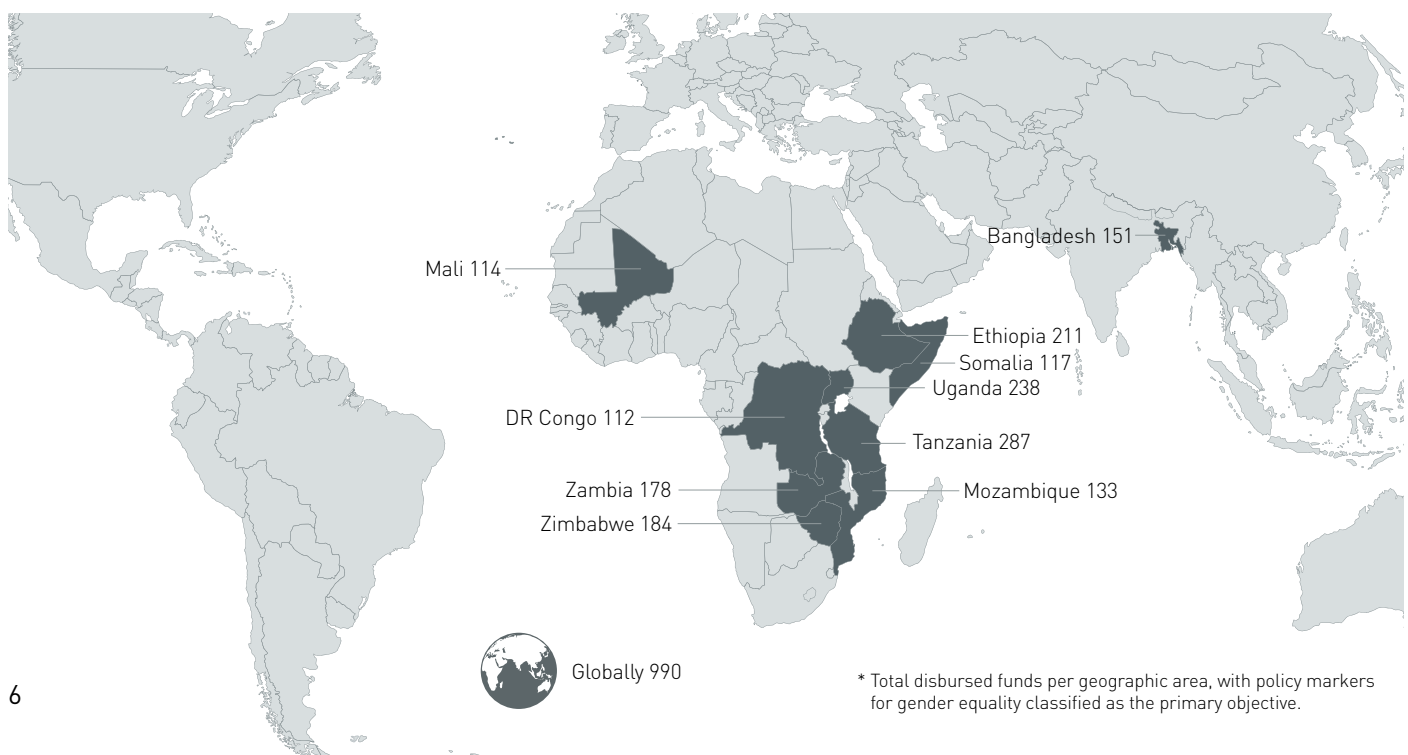
The assistance itself can take different forms. One way is to support women's rights organisations; another is to actively push gender equality issues in dialogue with our global, regional and local collaborative partners.

Contributions to increased gender equality can be achieved through targeted interventions in which the promotion of

gender equality is the primary objective, but can also be made by integrating gender equality into an activity that has another overall goal. The promotion of gender equality can also be a sub-goal that is integrated into an activity that has a different primary objective. The issue of gender equality is also raised in dialogues with partner countries or collaborative partners. A so-called "gender equality analysis" serves as the basis for how we work with gender equality in each individual context.

At the behest of the government, in 2015 Sida drew up an action plan for the mainstreaming of gender equality during the period 2016–2018. The goal is to increase the impact of gender equality within Swedish development co-operation. Among other things, this will be accomplished by increasing support for aid initiatives in which gender equality is the primary objective (i.e., in areas such as the environment and climate and humanitarian assistance, as well as productive sectors such as market development, agriculture and infrastructure) and by developing new forms of funding for efforts to promote gender equality.

COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE MAJOR ASSISTANCE FROM SIDA AIMED AT PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY (MSEK)*



* Total disbursed funds per geographic area, with policy markers for gender equality classified as the primary objective.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Gender equality issues are now much higher on the international agenda. Within the Global Goals for Sustainable Development it is integrated into all 17 goals, and particularly emphasised in goal number 5.

But all in all, global efforts to advance gender equality have still experienced many setbacks in recent years. These are evident in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, in which the empowerment of women and girls is limited by conservative values, gender-stereotyped norms, and an environment in which it is increasingly difficult for civil society organisations to operate.

This affects women's rights organisations, which not only find it more difficult to finance their activities, but are also increasingly exposed to violence, intimidation and marginalisation.

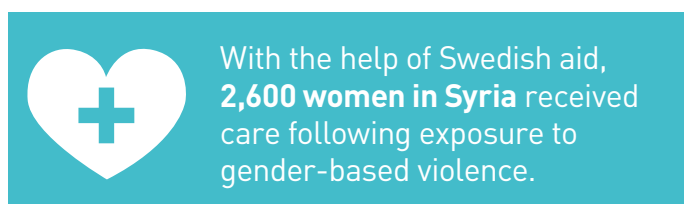
One current threat to women's health is the United States' 2017 decision to strangle aid to organisations that work with the issue of abortion – no matter whether their involvement concerns abortion care, information, or advocacy. Analysts warn that the decision could lead to more unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions, as well as increased maternal mortality. With the help of the #SheDecides initiative, Sweden and other countries have contributed both political and financial support to compensate for the decision of the United States.



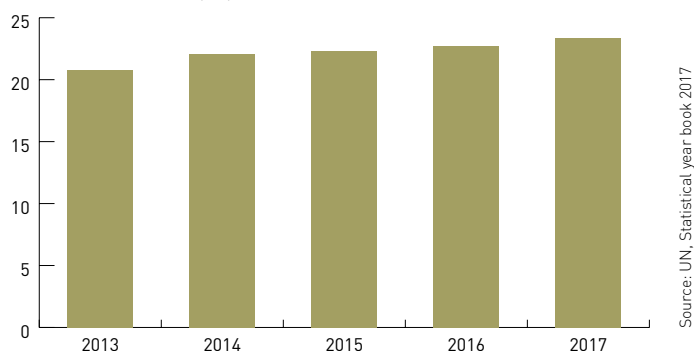
SWEDISH CONTRIBUTIONS

The basis for our gender equality work is the Plan for Gender Equality Integration for the Period 2015–2018. We will work with targeted actions, namely efforts in which the promotion of gender equality is the primary objective. In 2017, these efforts accounted for 20 per cent of our total support, compared with 18 per cent in 2016.

In the area of women's financial empowerment, we have launched new partnerships and developed the quality of support in most of the partner countries. We aim to strengthen female entrepreneurship, work with women's land rights, and increase women's access to financing. In the area of women's political participation and influence, our support has led to an increased number of women in decision-making positions. In the area of women, peace and security, we support women's



THE PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN THE WORLD'S PARLIAMENTS (%)



Yet another important issue is women's financial empowerment. Conservative values, norms and legislation, as well as a lack of access to financial resources limit development in this area. Women often perform informal and unpaid work and are exposed to a high degree of discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence.

One positive development is that deliberately imposed quotas at decision-making levels, along with a number of other measures, have contributed to increased political participation among women, although they still lack the ability to affect areas that are important to their human rights.



participation and influence in conflict prevention efforts. Other key areas include women's and girls' access to education, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. These are not just human rights, but also a prerequisite for the eradication of poverty and social development in general. Initiatives to engage and educate men and boys play an important role in gender equality work.

In 2017, 69 per cent of Sida's total aid went to initiatives in which gender equality was a priority but not the primary objective. In accordance with our gender equality plan, we are continuing our efforts to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender equality within productive sectors such as market development, agriculture, energy, and the environment and climate. We are also working to develop new forms of financing.



INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS



1. Guatemala. Development aid helped make it possible for 7,800 families to formalise their ownership rights over the land they use, and the title deeds were also in the woman's name.

2. Mali. Support to projects that strengthen women's financial empowerment reduce the workload for women.

3. Bangladesh. Aid to small businesses and strengthened market systems contributed to the strengthening of women's economic power.

4. Zimbabwe. Swedish aid contributed to the development of gender equality plans and the introduction of gender equality budgeting by 68 local government authorities.

5. The Western Balkans. Technical assistance, advisory services and preferential loans from local banks promoted women's entrepreneurship.

6. Georgia. Contribution to the presentation before the parliament of a proposal for compulsory quotas for women which led to a discussion of voluntary quotas, which is currently ongoing.

7. Bolivia. Financing for the United Nations Development Programme made it possible for women to develop regional women's agendas that were delivered to the parliament.

8. Afghanistan. Development aid made the implementation of a national action plan for women, peace and security possible.

PEOPLE FIRST

“I talk to people about how we can live in harmony with each other, without violence.”

EDINA LUTUFYO, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

Edina is a volunteer in Chaisa, a vulnerable slum on the outskirts of Lusaka. Having received training on how to manage her finances and run a business, she now works primarily with women's rights issues in various fields, such as healthcare and violence-free relationships. Edina also participates in Sida-supported campaigns to spread knowledge about reproductive health, gender equality and the right of women to be a part of the economic, social and cultural life of all sectors of society.



Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

ANALYSIS/LESSONS LEARNED

In recent years, a number of international agreements, such as Agenda 2030, the Addis Ababa Global Action Agenda for Development Financing, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, have incorporated a gender equality perspective and stressed the importance of women's participation and influence at all levels.

Insufficient funding, implementation challenges, and conservative values and gender-stereotyped norms have led some countries to question these agreements. We can also conclude that the recent years have involved setbacks in global efforts to promote gender equality and the rights of women and girls in numerous areas.

In many partner countries, the situation is compounded by shrinking space for civil society, which also limits women's rights organisations' ability to work.

One area which has suffered setbacks is sexual and reproductive health and rights. In this field, norms and values undermine women's and girls' empowerment. Relevant issues here include unwanted pregnancy, forced marriage, and genital mutilation.

Gender-based violence is widespread in Sida's partner countries, not least in the countries that are currently involved in armed conflicts. Sida engages in broad efforts to strengthen the protection of women and girls from all forms of gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence (both during and after conflicts). This work may include supporting strategies to counter impunity for the perpetrators or contributing to the establishment of the so-called "safe zones", where abused girls and women can receive care, support and advice.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IS WIDESPREAD IN SIDA'S PARTNER COUNTRIES, NOT LEAST IN THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN ARMED CONFLICTS.

When it comes to women's financial empowerment, equality is limited by norms, values and laws, but also by a lack of access to financial resources, the consequences of gender-based violence, and unpaid work in the home. This is an area where we can clearly see that our support is starting to make a difference both regionally and globally, in both development co-operation and humanitarian work.

The many current initiatives include work to improve value chains in agriculture programmes in Tanzania, efforts to assert women's land rights in Rwanda, and increased access to financing for women in Zambia. During the past year, we have also provided aid for female entrepreneurship and capacity development in Liberia, gender equality and resilience in Mali, and small business-building and strengthened market systems in Bangladesh.

In Eastern Europe and the Balkans, we support a regional programme for female entrepreneurship, which includes technical assistance, capacity development, counselling and low-cost loans in collaboration with local banks. Another way to strengthen women's empowerment is to formalise the right of women to own and inherit land, which contributes to greater security and control over productive resources for the women themselves and for their families.

Initiatives to increase women's political participation and influence have shown good results in our partner countries, and are often accompanied by deliberate quotas at the decision-making levels of society. In Zimbabwe, our support has helped 68 local authorities to establish gender equality plans and to draft budgets that promote gender equality and women's priorities. In Somalia, we have contributed to the in-

IN SOMALIA, WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF A QUOTA OF 30 PER CENT FEMALE PARLIAMENTARIANS.

roduction of a quota of 30 per cent female parliamentarians, with the result that the proportion of women in the nation's parliament has increased from 14 per cent to 25 per cent.

Women's political participation and influence also play an important role in the environment and climate field (including with regard to women's access to water and other natural resources), as well as in the area of peace and security. Armed conflicts and the lack of security are a widespread threat to women and girls in many parts of the world, and therefore constitute a serious obstacle to efforts to achieve gender equality. In order to contribute to the prevention of conflict, conflict resolution, sustainable peace and human security, Sweden has been working for many years to promote women's social and political participation and influence. This includes efforts in countries such as Colombia, South Sudan, Mali, Guatemala and Afghanistan.

Despite significant challenges, it is Sida's assessment that in 2017, Swedish aid contributed to greater gender equality and improved conditions for women and girls. We will continue to focus especially on increasing the number of targeted initiatives and to increase gender mainstreaming. Moving forward, a particularly important aspect of our work will also be to support women's rights organisations in their important role in achieving of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, as well as in their work to advance the rights of women and girls.

Environment and climate



Global warming is occurring at a faster rate than we were able to foresee, and its effects will become increasingly serious. The people around the world who live in poverty and are dependent on natural resources for their immediate survival are most vulnerable to climate change and other ongoing environmental degradation. To reduce poverty, we must therefore invest in environmentally sustainable initiatives that work to ensure that everyone has access to necessary resources.

MAIN FOCUS

A surrounding environment with a stable climate and functioning ecosystems are a prerequisite for development and human life. In order to reduce world poverty and contribute to building a society that will be sustainable in the long-term, we must therefore first and foremost ensure that Earth's resources are managed in a sustainable manner.

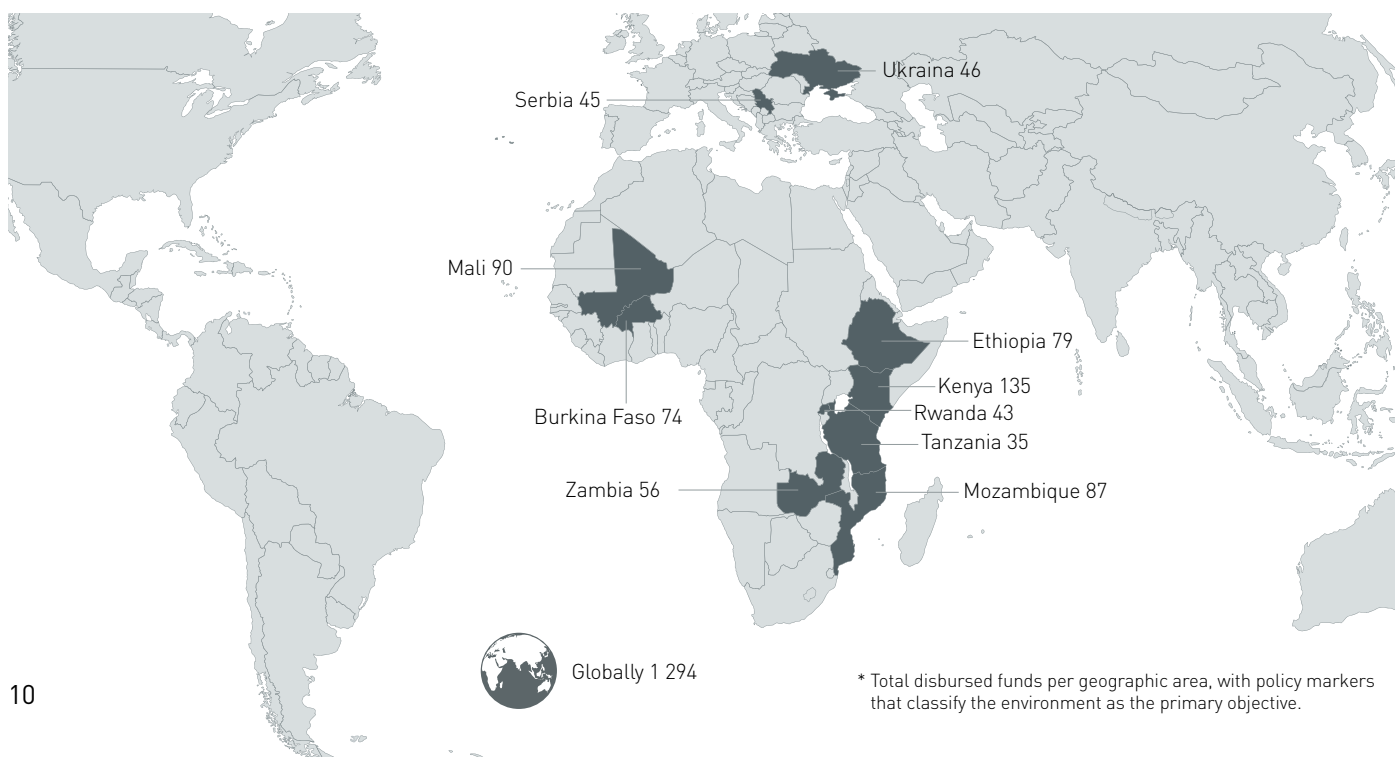
Both social and economic development are dependent on natural resources and ecosystem services. This means that a depletion of resources and ecosystems is likely to limit opportunities for us all. Most vulnerable are the many people living in poverty and who find themselves in a vulnerable situation with fewer opportunities to affect their livelihood.

One of Sida's most important tasks is to contribute to environmentally sustainable, and climate-friendly development and to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. Among other things, this means that we contribute to efforts that reduce both emissions and negative environmental impact. The aid also includes supporting the efforts of people and societies to adapt to existing and ongoing climate change and other environmental degradation.

Therefore, the goal is that all interventions be imbued with an environment and climate perspective. This means that all our efforts should be assessed on the basis of any environmental aspects. The assessment must indicate whether and how a given initiative can contribute to environmental sustainability and the extent to which efforts and relevant target groups are vulnerable to, and may be affected by, climate change.

It is important to ensure that the initiative does not contribute to negative environmental impacts. That is why we are funding efforts, dissemination of technology, and capacity development that improve living conditions without overly exploiting the Earth's natural resources. Our assistance can take different forms, like contributing to environmentally sustainable food production. We may also support the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems or efforts to ensure that people have access to clean water and renewable energy. Contributions to targeted environmental measures (i.e. initiatives whose primary objectives relate to the environment and climate) may include support to environmental administrations, environmental organisations, and chemical management.

COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE MAJOR ASSISTANCE FROM SIDA AIMED AT PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (MSEK)*



* Total disbursed funds per geographic area, with policy markers that classify the environment as the primary objective.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

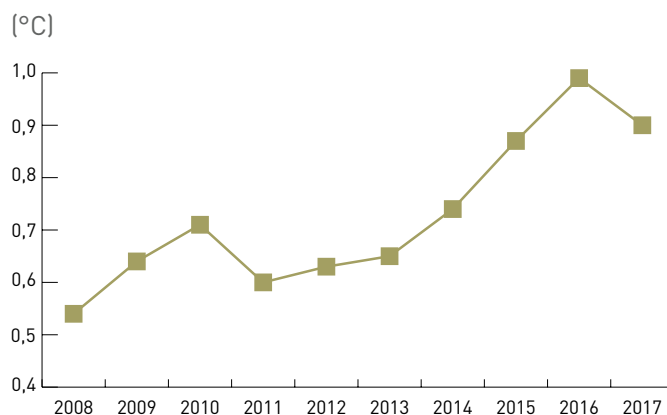
Climate change is occurring faster than was indicated in previous forecasts, and its consequences in terms of temperature increases, sea level rise, and extreme weather changes are becoming more and more serious. The extent to which we ourselves affect ecosystems and the ecosystem services on which we are all so dependent has also become more evident.

We now know that an unhealthy environment can be linked to approximately one in four deaths worldwide. These deaths relate to dangers such as agricultural pesticides, flame retardants in electronics manufacturing, heavy metals in the mining industry, and air pollution in large cities such as Nairobi, New Delhi and Beijing. Almost 92 per cent of all deaths caused by pollution occur in low-income or middle-income countries. At the same time, policymakers and other decision-makers are becoming more aware of what these pollutants lead to in terms of human suffering and social costs.

In the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, environmental and climate issues are addressed in goals 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. This demonstrates the importance the international community attributes to these issues. Other current examples in which world leaders have come together are the agreement from the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (held in Paris in 2015), which calls on countries

THE GLOBAL TEMPERATURE INDEX FOR 2008–2017

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

to contribute to keeping global warming below two degrees Celsius, and the discussions at the international COP22 climate conference in Marrakesh regarding how to achieve the two degree target. In the course of 2017, marine issues were addressed at the SDG 14 Ocean Conference in New York, and the UN Special Envoy for the Environment and Human Rights discussed the implications of the loss of biodiversity for indigenous people.



Unhealthy environments are responsible for almost **one in four deaths** worldwide.



The number of climate-related disasters has **more than doubled** in the last 40 years.

SWEDISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Environmental and climate sustainability are an important starting point for Swedish development co-operation, and our work in this area currently involves a combination of targeted actions, integrated actions, and dialogue with collaborative partners. These include global, national and local organisations, as well as research, industry, and public sector actors.

In 2017, Sida contributed approximately 2.9 billion SEK in support for efforts whose primary objective relates to environmental development and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources. This is an increase from both 2016 (2.4 billion) and 2015 (2.1 billion), and approximately 14 per cent of our total aid. The assistance can take different forms. A large percentage goes to environmental protection, including in the form of environmental administrations, environmental organ-

isations, chemical management and targeted climate efforts. Other major areas that receive Swedish aid include water and sanitation, energy supply, forestry and agriculture. Initiatives are also undertaken to reduce the risk of disasters.

By providing targeted support in the climate area, we increase the ability of both partner countries and stakeholder groups to participate in climate talks and to access climate financing. In other collaborations, we contribute to increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability to extreme weather events and disasters. Construction of cyclone shelters in Bangladesh, development of more sustainable fishing in Southeast Asia, and systems that can warn small farmers of an impending flood are examples thereof. Sida also contributes funds to environmentally sustainable production methods.



In Mali, Sida contributed **100,000 forest seedlings** to the restoration of devastated forests.



Support for Russian sewerage treatment reduced emissions into the Baltic Sea by **726 tonnes of nitrogen** per year.

INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS



- 1. Mali.** National and global support for work on climate change made more climate financing available to local communities.
- 2. Serbia.** Strategically important aid for building skills and capacity related to the environmental aspects of EU approaches and EU negotiations.
- 3. Russia.** Support contributed to reduced emissions of bio-degradable bio-substances and nitrogen into the Baltic Sea.
- 4. India.** Simple and cost-effective measures allowed textile manufacturers to reduce their consumption of water, chemicals and energy.
- 5. Kenya.** Twelve associations for water users received help in developing allocation plans to avoid conflicts.
- 6. Uganda.** Support to regional agricultural programmes gave small-scale farmers the opportunity to sell environmentally friendly products.
- 7. Bangladesh.** Sida's support contributed to the construction of large shelters where thousands of people could seek shelter from cyclones.
- 8. Chile.** Aid improved the conditions for sustainable fishing and the protection of anchovies, which is the world's largest individual fish species.

PEOPLE FIRST

“The more I sprayed, the more they attacked the crops. I also had constant health problems. Now I feel better and have more energy.”

KHAM KHENG, LAOS

The economic growth in Southeast Asia is not only a good thing; the increased use of chemicals in both agriculture and industry affects the health and habitats of the population. To improve monitoring, labelling and knowledge, Sida funds regional co-operation and thus contributes to the strengthening of institutions, the clarification of legislation, and reduction of risks.



Photo: Deeppa Ravindran/PANAP

ANALYSIS/LESSONS LEARNED

Last year's activities in the area of the environment and climate were guided by the global agreements, which state that both development and human welfare are dependent on the sustainable management of ecosystem services and coping with environment-related risks, such as climate change.

Among other things, our targeted assistance in this area have helped to strengthen the capacity of low-income countries to negotiate within the framework of the UN's UNFCCC climate convention. We have also increased the capacity of low and middle-income countries to report and verify emissions and contributed to ensuring that so-called "climate financing" benefits local communities.

One recent example is Sida's financing of the British organisation IIED's programmes in Kenya, Tanzania, Mali and Senegal. The programme gives local rural communities the opportunity to apply for financing from special climate change funds. The funds are earmarked for the implementation of climate change adaptation projects. The idea is that the local people themselves should decide what measures should be implemented.

Most apply for aid that will allow them to manage and administer their water resources. Relatively simple investments that allow people to better manage rainwater and ground water and protect pastures from drought during the recurrent dry seasons are often sufficient. Another initiative within the same programme aims to disseminate weather and climate forecasts in rural areas via radio and SMS messages.

THE SUPPORT PROVIDED TO THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME AFRICAN RISK CAPACITY, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS OFFERS NATIONAL DISASTER INSURANCE, IS ONE EXAMPLE OF SUCH A COLLABORATION.

Several of our partnerships have contributed to increased resilience and reduced vulnerability to extreme weather events and disasters. The support provided to the regional programme African Risk Capacity, which among other things offers national disaster insurance, is one example of such a collaboration. The goal of these assurances is to eventually reduce the need for humanitarian assistance to countries affected by drought, floods, hurricanes or pandemics.

Sida collaborates with the United Nations and other organisations on actions related to environmentally sustainable production and consumption. One of our partners is the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which helps to affect the global supply chains to increase the sustainability for important commodities such as palm oil, timber, cotton, tuna fish, and farmed fish, as well as paper and pulp.

One goal is to reduce the use of chemicals in both agri-

culture and industry. The Sida-funded regional programme Towards a Non-Toxic Southeast Asia in Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand, which has its launch in 2007 contributed to strengthening institutions, improving legislation, and training farmers in organic agriculture and educating them about the risks associated with chemical pesticides.

Another important area of Swedish aid is water purification and waste management. Since the late 1990s, Sweden has supported some 30 water projects in the Baltic Sea region, and in 2017 the measures were taken to diminish the last major emissions from major cities around the Baltic Sea. Swedish aid has been used for investments in technical equipment and to support the reform and development of local water companies. One of the cities affected by these efforts is St. Petersburg, where our help has reduced the direct emissions the direct emissions from industries and residential areas along the Neva River. The Swedish support for wastewater treatment in Russia has caused emissions of biodegradable substances into the Baltic Sea to drop by 138 tonnes per year. In the

IN THE COURSE OF 2017, SIDA CONTRIBUTED APPROXIMATELY 500 MILLION SEK IN AID TO ENVIRONMENTALLY-FOCUSED EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF WATER AND SANITATION.

course of 2017, Sida contributed approximately 500 million SEK in aid to environmentally-focused efforts in the field of water and sanitation. Above all, this relates to support for initiatives that reduce the effects of climate change on people and their everyday lives, not least by ensuring access to water and toilets. These measures may include the mapping of water resources in Yemen or the management of transboundary water resources in Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East, or the reduction of water consumption, chemicals, and energy by textile factories in India, Bangladesh, China, Turkey and Ethiopia. In the latter case, the use of simple and cost-effective methods reduced the use of water by 7 per cent. The management of water resources is usually also an integral part of aid for the climate change adaptation of agriculture, for example in the form of support for more efficient irrigation in countries such as Bolivia, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia.

It is clear that we are facing enormous challenges from many fronts in the area of climate and the environment, and the effects of climate change on many people around the world who live in poverty. But we can also conclude that Swedish aid provides important contributions to efforts to strengthen environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly development and the responsible use of natural resources. This is accomplished both by supporting work at different levels and by working in key sectors such as water, energy and agriculture.

Peaceful and inclusive societies



Armed conflicts and violence constitute one of the primary obstacles to sustainable development. They not only cause immense human suffering but also make it even more difficult for people to pull themselves out of poverty. A significant proportion of Sida's partner countries find themselves in a conflict or post-conflict situation, and about half of our current efforts address peace and security as their primary or secondary objective.

MAIN FOCUS

Sida's activities are increasingly focused on countries characterised by conflict and crises. Future aid can also be expected to play its most important role in these environments, where people find it most difficult to pull themselves out of poverty, vulnerability is greater and human security is marginalised. Armed conflicts and violence contribute to the creation of poverty. For example, in 2016 global food security fell for the first time in many years as a direct result of conflicts and crises.

Human security is one of the four dimensions of poverty in the multidimensional poverty analysis employed by Sida to better focus its activities on combating poverty in all its dimensions. It is necessary to understand how poverty affects the peace and security dynamic, as well as how developments in other areas, such as environment/climate and policies/institutions affect human security.

Targeted actions that support peace and security are an important part of our work. Sida supports peacebuilding efforts in a number of countries with both ongoing and concluded armed conflicts. We also help by supporting actions promoting democracy and respect for human rights

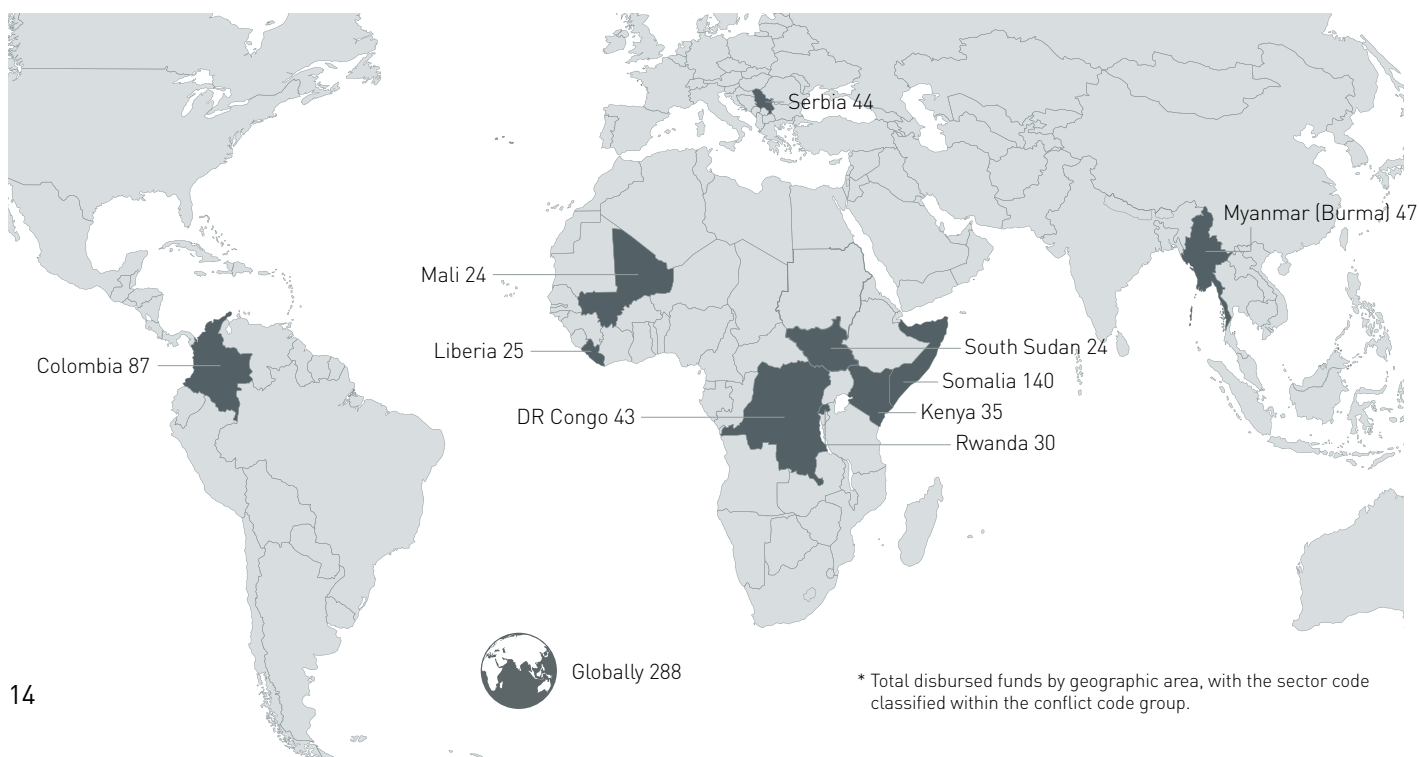
and prevention work that reduces the risk that conflicts will escalate and become violent.

Sida applies a conflict-sensitive approach in its aid work, which means that we closely examine how any aid will affect the conflict dynamic within the society in question.

We also work actively to support women's rights organisations and include women in the peacebuilding process, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which states that women should be guaranteed full and equal influence in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts. Sida also supports the implementation of other important UN resolutions that increase children's protection against violence and abuse in armed conflicts and which particularly stress that children must not be exploited as soldiers.

In August 2017, the Swedish government adopted a decision regarding the Sustainable Peace Strategy 2017–2022, which involves an increased focus on the area of peaceful and inclusive societies. The new strategy also means that more aid will be provided to this area than in previous years.

COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE MAJOR AID FROM SIDA IN THE AREA OF PEACE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES (MSEK)*



* Total disbursed funds by geographic area, with the sector code classified within the conflict code group.

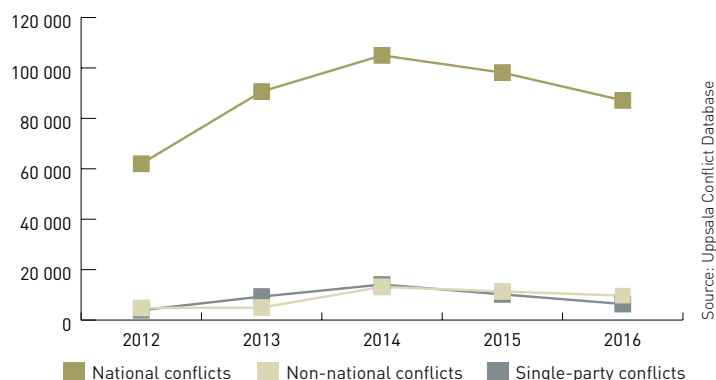
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Following a period that saw a steady decrease in armed conflicts and their associated mortality rates, since 2010 this trend has moved in the opposite direction, with an increase in both the number of armed conflicts worldwide and increased mortality rates.

Violence and armed conflict are now recognised as one of the greatest threats to both development and poverty alleviation and an increasing proportion of the world's poor live in countries that are characterised by armed conflict and violence. Today's conflicts are characterised by multidimensional and interconnected causes and motivations, and although many of them are local, they often end up involving other countries and conflicts, such that the conflicts become transnational and more intractable.

This trend has been most pronounced in the Middle East and North Africa. The security situation has also deteriorated in Asia and Europe, where violent extremism and conflict in Turkey and Ukraine are the primary causes of violence and instability.

NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IN CONFLICTS WORLDWIDE



The need for an increased focus on peaceful and inclusive development is highlighted in both Agenda 2030 and Global Goal 16 (regarding peaceful and inclusive societies), and is integrated throughout the Agenda. In 2018, the UN Security Council and the General Assembly renewed their commitments in support of sustainable peace.



In conflict or post-conflict countries, the **maternal mortality rate is 1.5 times higher** than the global average.



Since the Colombian civil war ended, approximately **192,000 hectares of land** have been returned to their original owners.

SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION

About half of Sida's efforts now focus on peace and security as their primary or secondary objective, which constitutes an increase compared to a few years ago. Last year, this theme was the primary objective of 8 per cent of the initiatives, and the secondary objective of 47 per cent of the initiatives. In 2017, the aid provided by Sida in this area of totalled 991 million SEK, which is a sizeable increase compared to the previous year.

In armed conflicts and crises, long-term development assistance is often provided in parallel with urgent humanitarian efforts to save lives and relieve distress. A recent example is Syria. Sweden has a regional strategy for the Syria crisis for the years 2016–2020, according to which Sida will focus its support on improving the conditions for future peace and sustainable reconstruction.

Sida prioritises support for efforts aimed at the causes of the conflicts or which strengthen the ability to withstand crises and handle conflicts peacefully, including through dialogue and mediation. Other areas supported by Sida include

the meaningful participation of women and youth in the peace process, the protection of children in conflict-ridden areas, mine clearance, and the control of small and light weapons, as well as support for justice and accountability processes in post-conflict situations, so-called "transitional justice".

One of our biggest challenges is the fact that it has become increasingly difficult for civil society organisations to work freely in many areas. The reasons for this include the recent restriction of democratic rights in several of our partner countries. Aid efforts are also hampered by the limited opportunities to co-operate with institutions in conflict-afflicted areas.

A further challenge is the worldwide underfunding of conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. Several bilateral donors have also cut back on their long-term and non-earmarked support to peacebuilding actors. As a result, Sida is now one of the few so-called "core assistance donors" to these strategic partners.



1,800 people regularly participate in Sida-supported peacebuilding discussion groups in Syria.



In 2017, Sida's collaborative partners cleared **3,000 square metres of minefields** in areas such as Iraq.

INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS



- 1. Guatemala.** Long-term support has helped to strengthen the rule of law and reduce impunity.
- 2. Moldova.** Support for peaceful conflict management and conflict resolution in Transnistria, which contributed to increased dialogue between the People's Assembly of Gagauzia and the Moldovan Parliament.
- 3. Colombia.** Support for ongoing peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the ELN guerrilla movement.
- 4. DR Congo.** Support for UNICEF's programme for the disarmament and reintegration of girls and boys who have been recruited into armed groups.
- 5. Rwanda.** Support for the development of effective, inclusive and accountable institutions that contribute to the reduction of impunity and the strengthening of transitional justice.
- 6. Somalia.** Aid has led to the strengthening of national and local resistance to conflict-related crises and increased the capacity to deal with conflicts by peaceful means.
- 7. Ukraine.** Support for the UNDP's programme, with a focus on peacebuilding and reconciliation in the Ukrainian oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk.
- 8. The Philippines.** Support for strategic partners which promote women's rights and participation in the peace agreement.

PEOPLE FIRST

“Despite the drought, this year we have had much more success with the cattle than last year – I can't believe it.”

DANIELA CASTILLO, COLOMBIA

The armed conflict that raged in Colombia for over 50 years caused its people great suffering and forced more than seven million people to flee since it began in 1985. Daniela lost both her parents in the conflict, and was placed in an orphanage when she was eight years old. Thanks to a new law and Sida's support to ensure that it is complied with, she and many other refugees have now been given back their land.



Photo: Sida

ANALYSIS/LESSONS LEARNED

The recent development of protracted armed conflicts in many parts of the world continued in 2017. The worst conflicts include several of the countries receiving the most bilateral support from Sweden, including Afghanistan, Somalia, Palestine, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

A common characteristic of many of the ongoing conflicts is that it remains difficult to reach peaceful solutions. This development means that armed conflicts involve more and more actors and are becoming increasingly complex. Today's conflicts affect civilians to a higher degree than before, because the warfare is directed at the civilian population, including through terrorist attacks in public places and attacks on schools and healthcare institutions, as well as sexual and gender-based violence.

In both Swedish and international aid interventions, it is becoming increasingly important to understand how violent conflict affects development. Therefore, in 2015 Sida received a revised directive from the government stating that the entire operation must be imbued with an integrated conflict perspective.

ACHIEVING LASTING RESULTS AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL OFTEN REQUIRES AN INTERPLAY BETWEEN POLITICS, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT.

Achieving lasting effects for peace at the national or regional level often requires an interplay between politics, security and development. One example is Colombia, where Swedish development co-operation contributed to the 2016 peace agreements between the government and the Farc guerrillas, and where Sweden now plays an important role in supporting the implementation of these peace agreements.

Our efforts can also help to increase the protection of civilians in armed conflicts and support to the implementation of inclusive peace processes. Another example is Sida's support for the development of effective, inclusive and accountable institutions in conflict or post-conflict countries, including Rwanda, Bosnia and Guatemala. In the latter country, our collaboration with the Guatemalan Public Prosecutor's Office has helped to ensure that people who committed crimes during the conflict have been held accountable.

In June 2017, the Swedish government adopted a decision regarding a new co-operation strategy for Iraq in the period of 2017-2021. It renews and strengthens Sida's focus on peaceful and inclusive societies and increased gender equality in that country. In total, the strategy comprises approximately 1 billion SEK in development aid.

In countries such as Liberia, Myanmar and Ukraine, we have contributed to efforts that strengthen countries' resilience to crises and increase their capacity to deal with

conflicts by peaceful means. For example, we help them to manage any disputes over land and natural resources in a peaceful way.

Actions may also focus on inclusive dialogue and peace processes, as in Moldova, where we are one of the few donors who support the peaceful management and resolution of the conflict in Transnistria. This initiative has contributed to the promotion of a formal dialogue between the People's Assembly of Gagauzia and the Moldovan Parliament.

SIDA ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE DRAFTING OF SWEDEN'S NEW NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY, WHICH IS A PRIORITY ISSUE.

Sida actively contributed to the drafting of Sweden's new National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which is a priority of the current government's feminist foreign policy. One of the main objectives is to increase women's protection and meaningful participation and involvement in peace processes, in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, as well as subsequent resolutions.

In the case of armed conflicts, we pay extra attention to the situation of children and young people, who are often far more exposed and vulnerable to violence or threats of violence than adults. In 2017, we were able to help increase the protection of children in a number of conflict and post-conflict areas. For example, with the help of political dialogue and other initiatives, we were able to assist in the liberation and reintegration of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Somalia.

Other areas in which we have achieved results include the strengthening of the local capacity for conflict resolution at the national level (for example in Somalia, DRC and Mali), increasing the participation of women and marginalised groups in the peace processes in Colombia and Myanmar, and the maintenance of the UN system's capacity for conflict prevention.

Moving forward, the goal is to increase the number of actions so that Swedish development aid can continue to contribute to more widespread participation in peace processes, the prevention of armed conflict and peacebuilding and nation-building. Other important areas are support for transitional justice, mine management, and peaceful conflict management.

Humanitarian



Global humanitarian needs have increased significantly over the last ten years. In 2017, just over 65 million people were refugees from armed conflicts, environment and climate-related crises, natural disasters and epidemics. In a time such as this, when international aid is not sufficient to cover the existing needs, Sida prioritises lifesaving efforts. In 2017, Sweden's overall humanitarian aid totalled 4 billion SEK.

MAIN FOCUS

The goal of Swedish humanitarian aid is to save lives, relieve distress and maintain human dignity for distressed people who have been exposed to (or who are likely to be exposed to) armed conflicts, natural disasters, and other catastrophe-like conditions.

Sida contributes both material support and protection efforts. The material support may include food, water, nutrition, shelter, sanitation or medical care. A protection effort may involve evacuation, registering people as refugees, or temporary accommodation. Because humanitarian aid is based on international agreements and its main goal is to remedy acute emergencies, Sida works both with the responsible phasing-out of humanitarian aid and with more long-term solutions.

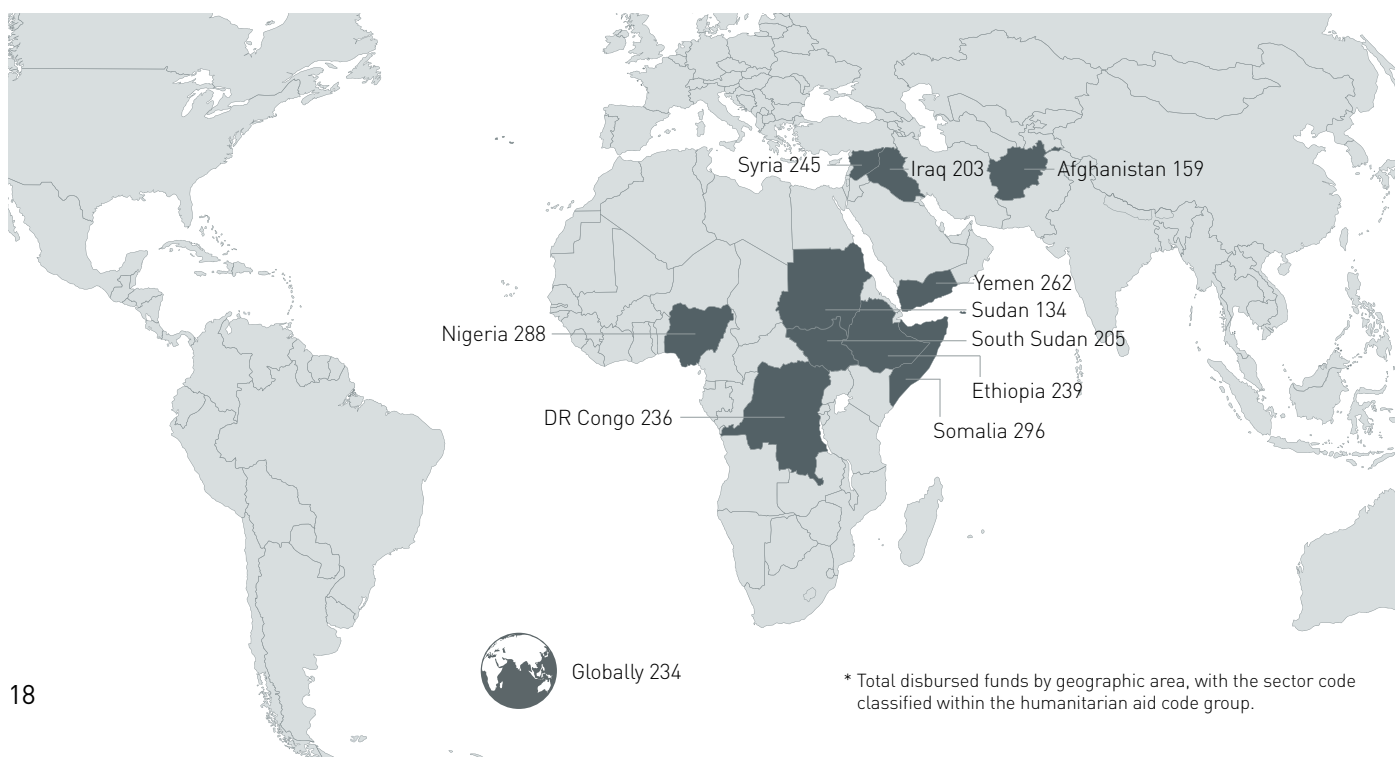
Sweden's humanitarian aid is based on the global humanitarian needs outlined in UN resolution 46/182 – the four humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence – as well as on international humanitarian law, international refugee law, and human rights.

Among other things, this means that aid should be based on an objective and impartial assessment and that the funds should be disbursed quickly.

All efforts should take into account the particular needs of girls, women, boys, and men. For example, many girls and women are subjected to more gender-based violence, while boys and men are more vulnerable to mass executions. We strengthen the ability of people and societies to protect themselves and recover from crises and disasters. We also actively work to increase the interaction between emergency humanitarian interventions and long-term preventative development co-operation.

Global humanitarian aid has increased in recent years, but is still far from sufficient to cover the extensive and often complex needs. One measure of this is the fact that in 2017, the UN's humanitarian organisations only received about 50 per cent of their so-called humanitarian appeals, i.e., the requested aid.

CRISES WITH THE LARGEST HUMANITARIAN FUNDING IN 2017 (MSEK)*



* Total disbursed funds by geographic area, with the sector code classified within the humanitarian aid code group.

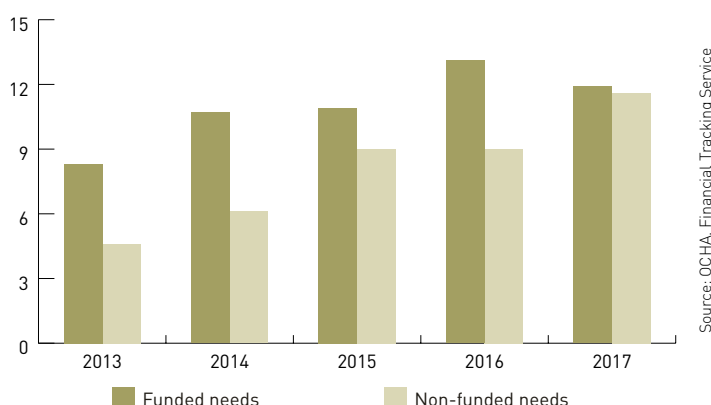
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Over the last ten years, the global need for humanitarian aid increased dramatically, mainly because of a number of major new humanitarian crises, especially in the Middle East, combined with protracted and intractable armed conflicts which have forced many millions of people to flee their homelands. Yet environment and climate-related crises, natural disasters and epidemics have also contributed to the need for humanitarian action, which is now greater than ever before. In another trend, people remain refugees for longer periods and crises tend to become increasingly lengthy and risk becoming chronic.

Upwards of 141 million people worldwide now require humanitarian aid in order to survive. Of these, 65 million are refugees. One of the most difficult crises is the armed conflict in Syria, where approximately 6.1 million people have been displaced within the country's borders. In addition, 5.5 million people were forced to flee the country. The vast majority are now in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

Other major crises in 2017 included the expulsion of approximately 500,000 Rohingya from Myanmar as well as the

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND FUNDING (BUSD)



threat of catastrophic famine in South Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria and Somalia, where around 20 million people were at risk of starvation.

Because humanitarian crises affect all sectors of a society, they are subject to the supportive efforts of all 17 of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.



About half of the world's **65 million refugees** are children.



Since the conflict in Syria began, approximately **11 million people** have fled their homes

SWEDISH CONTRIBUTIONS

In a time such as this, when global humanitarian aid is not sufficient to cover the existing needs, Sida prioritises life-saving efforts as well as support and protection for victims of natural disasters or armed conflicts.

Last year, Swedish humanitarian support totalled just over 4 billion SEK, or 19 per cent of our total aid. This represents an increase compared to both 2015 and 2016, when we provided 3 BSEK and 3.9 BSEK humanitarian aid, respectively. Swedish funds helped to assist distressed people embroiled in refugee crises, famine disasters, epidemics, armed conflicts and natural disasters.

Together with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, we are among the biggest donors to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA). Other recipients of Swedish support include the UN refugee agency UNHCR, Save the Children, Doctors without Borders, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and

the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). The majority of Sida's humanitarian aid goes to several major non-governmental organisations and the Red Cross.

In the autumn of 2017, the Swedish government adopted a decision regarding a new Strategy for Sweden's Humanitarian Aid provided through Sida 2017–2020, which is based on 2016's so-called "Grand Bargain agreement" between humanitarian donors and organisations, the aim of which is a more effective humanitarian response.

According to the new strategy, Sida is expected to contribute to needs-based, rapid, and effective actions. We are also expected to contribute to increased protection for crisis-affected people and to foster greater respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles and the increased influence of crisis-affected people, while also strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the humanitarian system.

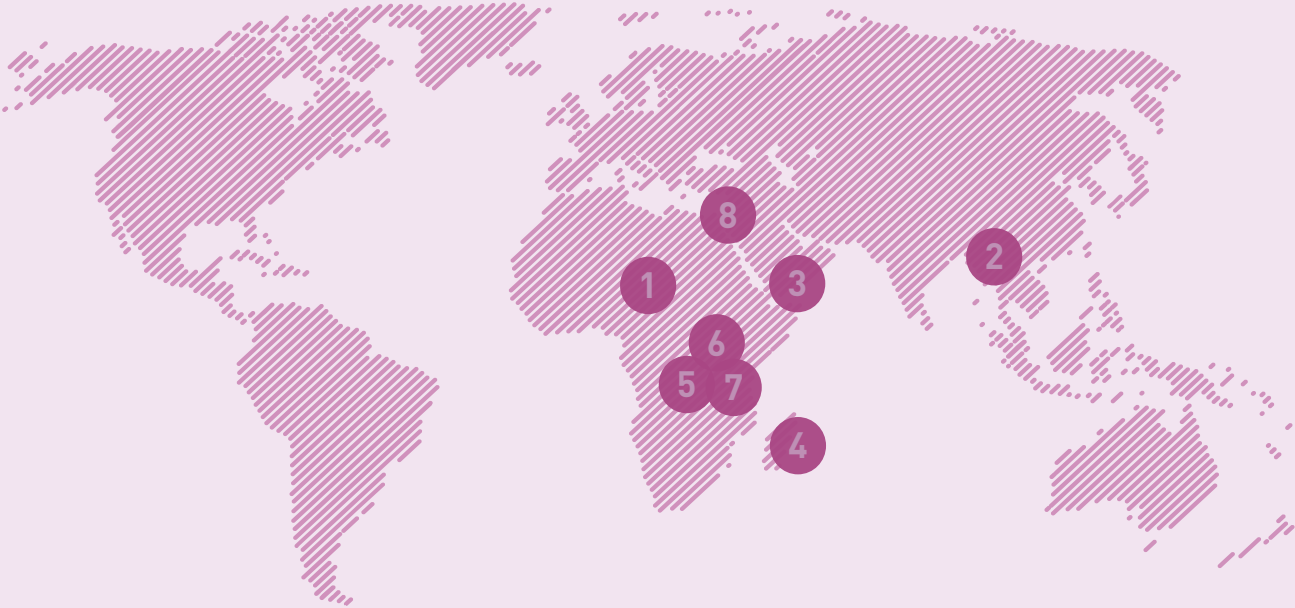


In 2017, Sida funded approximately **200 rapid humanitarian aid actions**.



67 per cent of last year's humanitarian grants had already been disbursed by the end of the first quarter.

INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS



- 1. Nigeria.** Sida's rapid actions in countries such as Nigeria helped to prevent a large-scale famine.
- 2. Myanmar.** Thanks to the Rapid Response Mechanism, Sida was able to contribute humanitarian aid (within 24 hours) to the acute crisis that ensued when 500,000 Rohingya were expelled from Myanmar.
- 3. Yemen.** Swedish support helped to limit the number of deaths in last year's massive cholera epidemic.
- 4. Madagascar.** Sida funded efforts to cope with cyclones and other natural disasters.
- 5. DR Congo.** Continued high levels of aid for so-called forgotten crises such as the one that remains ongoing in DR Congo.
- 6. South Sudan.** Support from Sida funded protection and assistance for hundreds of thousands of refugees in regional refugee crises in places such as South Sudan.
- 7. Uganda.** Aid for the registration of refugees from South Sudan helped to reduce people's vulnerability.
- 8. Palestine.** Support for psychosocial services and legal assistance for refugees affected by violence.

PEOPLE FIRST

“With cash assistance, we can decide what our family needs.”

ABD EL-ELLAH HARBA, JORDAN

Creating an existence that is as close to normal as possible allows refugees to retain their dignity. Examples of such normalcy include attending school and being able to make decisions about their finances. Abd El-Ellah and his wife are refugees from Syria. Through support from the UN and Sida, they receive monthly food vouchers, contributions for their children's education, and cash assistance which they may use as they see fit. This increases their independence while also stimulating the local economy.



Photo: Makmende Media

ANALYSIS/LESSONS LEARNED

In the course of 2017, Sida contributed support in connection with several major humanitarian disasters that attracted international attention. By providing support in the early stages of the serious nutritional crisis in Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, where upwards of 20 million were at risk of suffering from extreme malnutrition, we were able to curb a looming large-scale famine. In both Nigeria and Somalia, this initial assistance was followed by efforts in the field. In Yemen, we were also able to help save tens of thousands of lives by providing assistance in the early stages of one of the largest cholera outbreaks in modern history, with as many as 900,000 suspected cases of the illness.

However, the greatest proportion of last year's aid went to conflict-related refugee and internal refugee crises. In 2017, we gave a total of 800 million SEK in humanitarian aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Palestine, where about 50 million people are currently refugees from the ongoing armed conflicts in the region. These include crises in which both serious violations of international humanitarian law and a lack of protection of civilians have been demonstrated.

Humanitarian funds also went to the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, where we used the Rapid Response Mechanism to contribute humanitarian aid within 24 hours. We had established this system in collaboration with our partner organisations. It makes it possible to fund life-saving efforts anywhere in the world within 24 hours. In the early stage of the crisis, personnel from Sida were already on hand to closely monitor the crisis, in which 500,000 Rohingya crossed the border into Bangladesh in the space of three months. Part of Sida's annual humanitarian budget is set aside for precisely these types of sudden humanitarian crises. In 2017, we approved over 200 of these Rapid Response Mechanism actions within 24–48 hours.

Acute crises can also arise in connection with natural disasters, such as in connection with last year's drought in Ethiopia as well as the cyclones in Central America and Madagascar. There are also more protracted crises. In 2017, prolonged conflicts, chronic poverty and underfunded responses from the international community contributed to the

ONE CLEAR TREND IN RECENT YEARS IS THAT IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO GAIN ACCESS TO THOSE IN NEED.

perpetuation of already difficult situations for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Afghanistan and Sudan.

There are plenty of examples in the world of how violations of international humanitarian law and refugee law lead to increased vulnerability and a lack of protection for affected people. One clear trend in recent years is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to gain access to those in need. In several

recipient countries, deadly violence against humanitarian workers has increased.

In order for any aid whatsoever to reach those who are most vulnerable, Sida contributes to efforts that give humanitarian organisations greater access to crisis-afflicted and difficult-to-access areas. First and foremost, these actions are intended to ensure the safety of aid workers and to help find local collaborative partners. Unfortunately, global humanitarian needs are now so complex and extensive that existing funding and capacity do not suffice.

In accordance with the priorities of the new strategy, in 2017 Sida further increased its support to the UN bodies' country-based humanitarian funds, which meet the needs of the most vulnerable people during prolonged or recurrent crises in a flexible manner. Among other things, this is accomplished by partnering with local actors who have good local knowledge and humanitarian access. Funding decisions are made by the UN's Humanitarian Coordinators, who are in place in the crisis zone.

As regards longer-term needs, we decided to provide multi-annual support to a total of 22 humanitarian efforts in protracted crises, including in Afghanistan, Myanmar, the Syrian crisis and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Whenever it has been possible to do so, we have prioritised efforts to help the most vulnerable people in difficult-to-access

IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, SIDA HELPED TO ENSURE THAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES INVOLVED IN REGIONAL CRISIS RECEIVED PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE.

areas. Another priority has been to support organisations with protection mandates, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

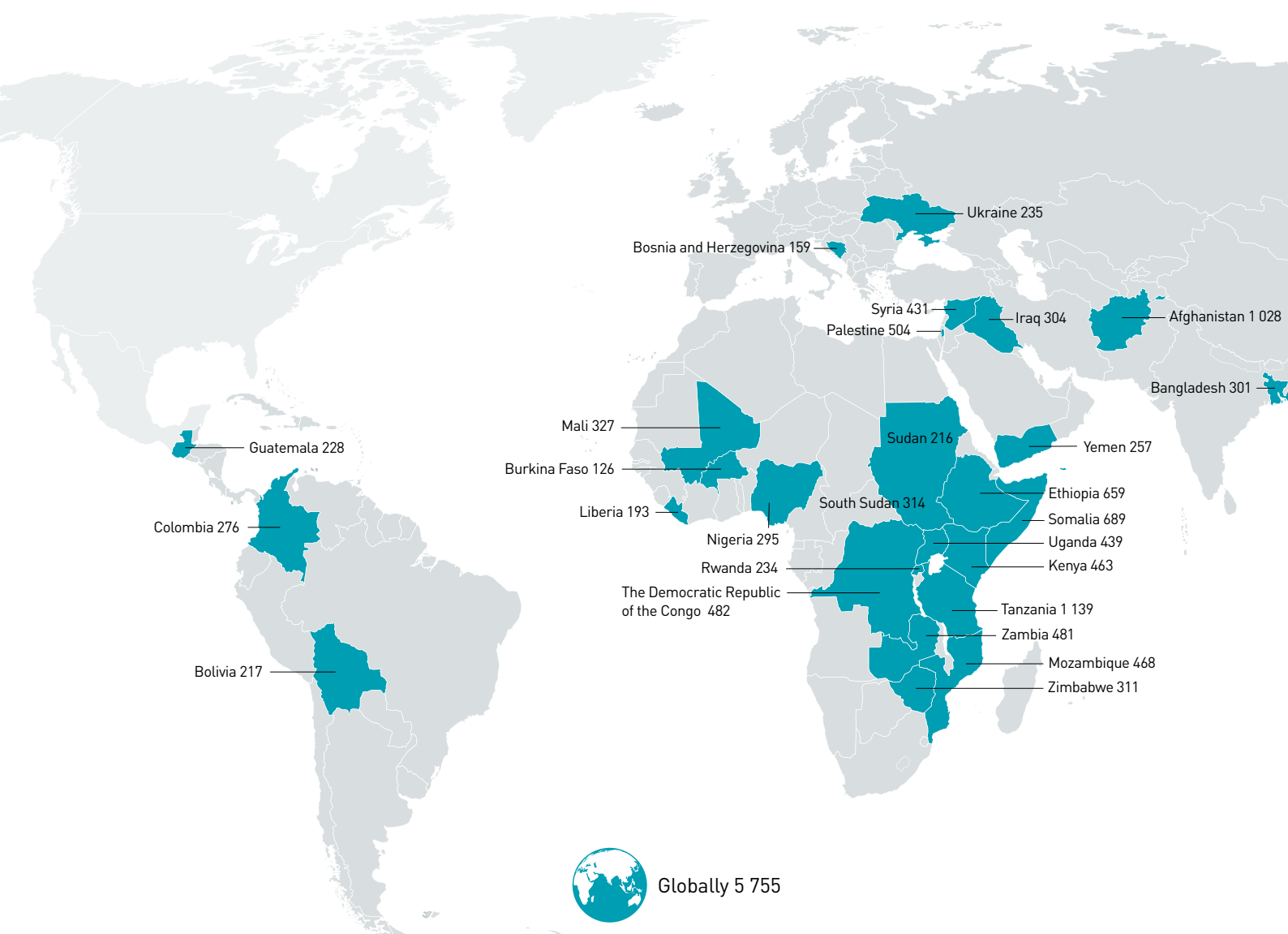
In the course of the year, Sida helped to ensure that hundreds of thousands of refugees involved in regional refugee crises (such as those in Syria and South Sudan) received protection and assistance. With the help of targeted protection efforts, we were also able to reduce people's vulnerability. Examples of these actions include the registration of refugees from South Sudan in Uganda and the evacuation of civilians from Raqqa in Syria. In Palestine, we helped to ensure that refugees were offered psychological support and legal advice.

Many of these efforts have one notable thing in common: In 2017, Sida was able to disburse a full 95 per cent of its agreed funding by the end of the first quarter. This increased the ability of humanitarian organisations to plan in advance, and facilitated their logistics planning, acquisitions and personnel recruitment. Another commonality is that the efforts are needs-based and characterised by impartial humanitarian work.

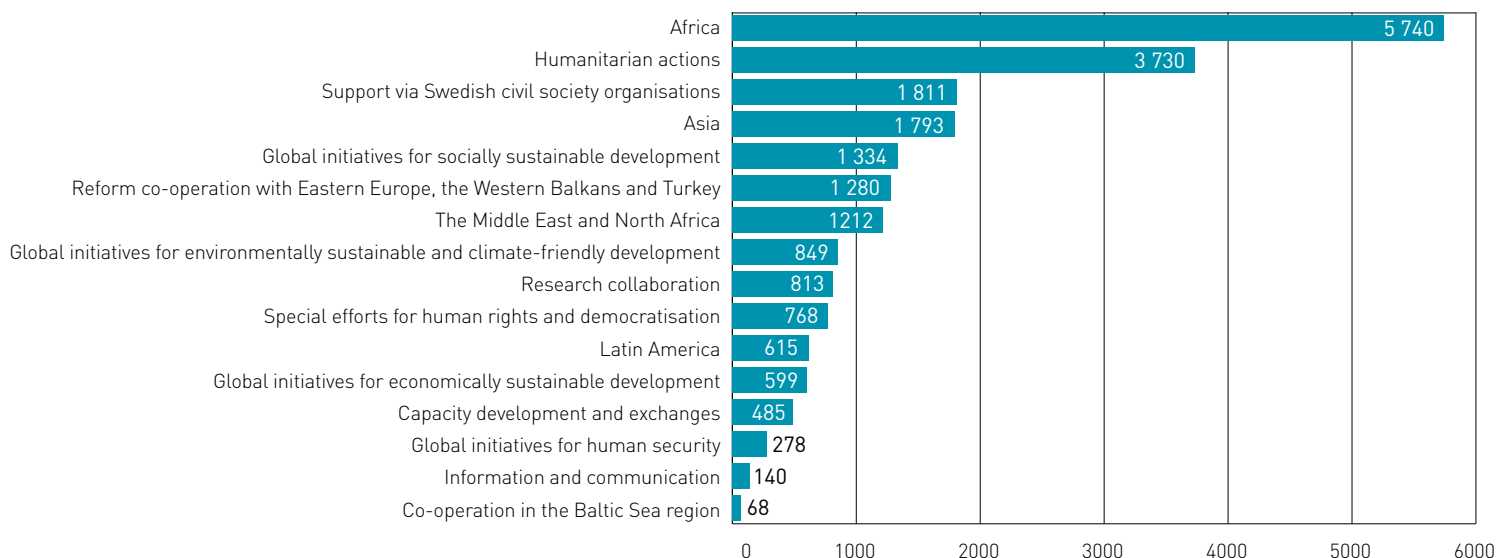
The year in review – a summary

The goal of Sweden's international aid work is to improve the living conditions of people living in poverty and under oppression. Our work is governed by the annual appropriations and the strategies for development co-operation with countries, regions and themes designated by the Swedish government. There were a total of 43 of these in 2017. In 2017, Sida's available funding for aid operations totalled 34,150 million SEK, of which approximately 21,448 million SEK was channelled to strategic activities via Sida. In addition, we also had 68 million SEK at our disposal that was earmarked for co-operation in the Baltic Sea region. At the behest of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, approximately 12,692 SEK was channelled through Sida to multilateral organisations. In December, Sida's activities employed a total of 668 labour-years. The gender distribution was somewhat more equal compared to the year before, and the percentage of employees with an immigrant background had increased.

SIDA'S ACTIVITIES IN 2017, DISBURSEMENT PER COUNTRY (EXCLUDING REGIONAL AID) (MSEK)



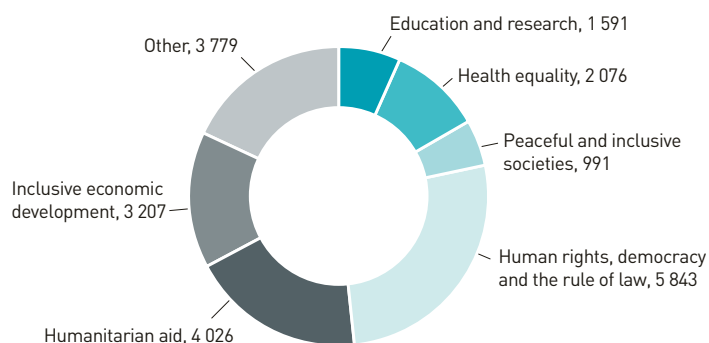
SIDA'S OPERATIONS, PAYMENTS PER APPROPRIATION 2017 (MSEK)



AID IN 2017, BY THEMATIC AREA

We divide our reported activities into nine thematic areas, according to international and proprietary criteria. The illustrations below complement each other.

Sida's thematic areas, according to international accounting (OECD-DAC sector codes). (MSEK)



Three of Sida's thematic areas according to their own policy markers, which indicate the degree to which the initiative aims at the respective policy objectives. The per cent figures include both primary and secondary objectives. (Per cent of disbursed funds)



Gender equality
90 %



Conflict
56 %



The environment
45 %

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.

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