



The Balkans on the Road to Peace and Democracy



BENGT AF GEIJERSTAM



DRASTIC CHANGE. The map of the Balkans changed drastically in the 1990's. Yugoslavia broke up in its previous republics and at the turn of the millennium only Serbia and Montenegro held on to the state called the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY).

Even this state is crumbling with Montenegro aiming at independence. Kosovo is governed by UN and its future status is yet unknown.

Bosnia & Herzegovina is divided in two so-called entities, The Federation, encompassing the area held by the Croats and the Bosniaks, and Republika Srpska, held by the Serbs.

UNRELIABLE FIGURES. The economic situation in the Balkans has deteriorated during the break-up of Yugoslavia and the various wars in the region. However, differences in living standard within and between the countries are extensive.

Because of the wars and the movement of people all statistics are highly unreliable. The figures on this page are collected from 1991 in former Yugoslavia, 1999 (Kosovo) and 2001 (Croatia).

The economic figures stem from the Worldbank. These figures do not include the large informal economy.

COVER: Life goes back to normality. When fighting ends, women carry on their everyday duties, like here in KOSOVO. PHOTO: BENGT AF GEIJERSTAM

	Population million	Infant mortality per 1000	Ethnical composition*	Religion	BNP per capita US\$
Albania	3,2	43	Albanians 95% Greeks 3%	Muslims 70% Orthodox 20% Catholics 10%	870
Bosnia- Herzegovina	3,6 2,2 (FED) 1,4 (RS)		Bosnians 44% Serbs 31% Croats 17%	Muslims 40% Orthodox 30% Catholics 15% Protestants 5%	1 170
Croatia	4,4	7,8	Croats 93% Serbs 4%	Catholics 84% Orthodox 6%	4 490
Macedonia	2,0	18,7	Macedonians 66% Albanians 23% Turks 4%	Orthodox 67% Muslims 30%	1 690
Serbia and Montenegro (FRY) (Incl. Kosovo)	11,2	16,5 (S) 11,0 (M)	Serbs 63% Muslim slavs 3% Albanians 14% Montenegrins 6% Hungarians 4%	Orthodox 65% Muslims 19% Catholics 4%	1 420
Kosovo	2,2		Albanians 90% Serbs 10%	Muslims 80% Catholics 10% Orthodox 10%	

*There are other ethnic groups in the Balkans than the ones mentioned here, for instance Romas. Many people are of mixed ethnic background.

Our aim is Peace and Integration

The objective of Sweden's development co-operation in the Western Balkans is to create conditions for a sustainable peace in the region and to facilitate the long-term integration of the new states into European co-operation. Sweden acts through Sida, the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency.

Sweden engaged in the Balkans early on. Since the beginning of the wars in 1991, Sweden has channelled humanitarian assistance through Swedish and international organisations.

Since the end of the Balkan wars, Sweden has contributed to create the necessary conditions for refugees to return home. Refugees receive help enabling them to repair destroyed houses and damaged infrastructure. They are also assisted to start up farming. To date, more than 50,000 people have been able to return home through these programmes financed by Sida.

Sweden's long-term development co-operation started after the peace agreement in Bosnia in 1995. Since then the main aim has been to build sustainable institutions in the former Yugoslav republics (except Slovenia) and Albania.

A vital part of Swedish aid aims at furthering human rights and democracy. Sweden supports media with a democratic outlook and organisations that endorse women's rights, equality, human rights, reconciliation and peace.

The Swedish government has adopted strategies for each of the co-operation countries in the Balkans, and Sida acts according to these strategies. Sweden takes a comprehensive view of the Western Balkans, and therefore a large part of the assistance is directed to programmes that target the whole region. In this brochure the Swedish development co-operation is described by country and region.



HOME AGAIN. Suada Čausević is part of what could be described as a break-through for minority returnees to Bosnia. Suada and her two children, Elvedina and Elvedin, are Muslims/Bosniaks who have returned to Hambarine outside Prijedor, in Republika Srpska. No less than 5,000 Muslim families are returning to the area.

In Hambarine, Sida is funding an integrated area program carried out by Lutheran World Federation. With the project, houses are repaired, the school will be restored, the houses supplied with

water and electricity, roads will be drawn and a bakery and a store put up.

In the beginning of the war Suada's husband was taken to the concentration camp Keraterm in Prijedor. He was never seen again. Subha's two brothers faced the same destiny. As a widow, Suada receives help to build up her house.

Despite the difficult memories, Suada has fought hard to be able to return.

"I was born here. This is my home," she says. "I want to live here for the rest of my life."

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains deadlocked. The extreme nationalists are still active in spite of their loss of power at state and entity levels. The Dayton Agreement, with its air of reconciliation and co-operation, has yet to be fulfilled. Many donors have chosen to direct their aid to other parts of the Balkans. However, Sweden is still committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Sweden's development co-operation with the country is still substantial.

The Swedish co-operation is focusing on refugee return and reconstruction. However, the support for human rights and democracy is also significant. Sweden is, for instance, contributing to a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Institutional development is a vital part of the Swedish co-operation, as it is an important prerequisite for sustainable democratic development.

HELPING REFUGEES

Allowing refugees to return home is of most importance to sustain peace and development. In Bosnia, Sida has financed the restoration of more than 8,000 houses and apartments damaged by war. This is achieved through so-called Integrated Area Programmes, where not only houses are restored, but schools, infrastructure and local health centres as well. These programmes rest on the principle of self-help aid, which makes the restoration process less expensive, thus allowing more houses to be restored. With the Integrated Area Programmes support is also allocated to agriculture. These projects are carried out by organisations with long experience of collaborating with Sida.

HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Essential to the Swedish development co-operation with Bosnia is supporting the creation of a civil society that respects democracy and human rights. Since 1994, Sida has channelled grants through Swedish and international organisations to further democracy. A substantial part of the aid has been directed to independent media, for example newspapers in Banja Luka and Sarajevo with a democratic outlook.

The Swedish Helsinki Committee and Olof Palme International Center support local initiatives to further democracy, such as democratic centres in Republika Srpska. Other organisations receiving Sida funding to support democracy and human rights are "Forum for a Democratic Alternative" and several Bosnian Helsinki committees.

Sweden also supports a local organisation that is the driving force behind the demand for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This organisation arranges seminars and also tries to convince politicians of the need for a commission. Lobbying for a proposed bill, the members are trying to bring about a law that would regulate such a commission.

Through the Swedish National Police Board, Sida trains Bosnian police instructors from different ethnic backgrounds in conflict solving.

CULTURE

Monuments and historically important buildings were systematically destroyed during the war. Culture Heritage Without Borders, a Swedish organisation, is developing new methods to restore these buildings. The organisation is collaborating with the



National Museum of Bosnia and local institutions promoting the restoration and preservation of buildings of cultural and historical importance. Sida is also funding the co-operation between the colleges of Music in Sarajevo and Stockholm, as well as that between the film festivals in Gothenburg and Sarajevo.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Sweden is supporting a project to privatise the banks as well as a programme for small and middle-sized businesses. Sweden has also supported reconstruction of telecommunications and railway traffic. In another project, Sweden is contributing to the establishment of a State Border Service to protect the borders that are now flooded with arms, drugs and people being smuggled westwards.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Even before the war the Bosnian public administration was hopelessly out of date. As the country slowly recovers from the war, it also has to go through the painful transition to a market economy that the rest of Eastern Europe is going through. In order to make democratic development possible, Sweden is giving support to institutions at the central and local levels. The support is directed to cadastral databases, IT-communication and auditing authorities. Sweden's contribution to the reformation of the mental health sector has made the Bosnian system a model for the region.

CITY OF SORROW. Sarajevo became the symbol of the war in Bosnia that ended with the Dayton Agreement in 1995. Today, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still divided along ethnic lines, and nationalism is still strong. In practice, if not in theory, the country is a protectorate under international rule subsisting only on foreign aid. Sarajevo is being rebuilt, but the traces of war remain.



HOLDING HOPE. The strawberries helped Nesib to a better life. He and his family live in a refugee camp outside Tuzla. Through a Sida funded project, they have received agriculture education and have been provided with seed and soil as well. A cannery in the region buys the harvest for a fixed price and the farmers get money in hand.



SUSANNE KARLSSON / PRESSENS BILD

A DOG'S LIFE. Smilja and Milica smile at their dog. They have just moved back to the Lika region in Croatia, after six years on the run as refugees in Serbia.

After the death of the Croatian president Franjo Tudjman in 1999, and the

subsequent victory for the opposition in the elections, it is now possible for Serb refugees to return to Croatia. However, the animosity towards Serbs is still strong at the local level. Sida is helping the returnees to start a new life.

Croatia

During the war Sweden supported Croatia with humanitarian assistance. Since the war the main areas of support have been measures for peace and reconciliation, refugee return, and support for democracy and human rights. These measures have been carried out mainly by organisations such as the Swedish Helsinki Committee, Kvinna till Kvinna and Olof Palme International Center.

REFUGEES

The return of refugees to the Lika region is currently the main Sida project. In this project, carried out by the Lutheran World Federation, 800 families will be able to restore their houses. Another 1,000 families will be assisted with agricultural means to support themselves. This project gives refugees the opportunity to return, repair their houses and start up farming or any other activity of their liking. Self-help aid is the guiding principle. Also, the municipal services are supported in order for the programme to be as sustainable as possible. Humanitarian aid is channelled through Save the Children to a regional project to help Bosnian refugees in Croatia to return.

RECONCILIATION

The Swedish Proni (Project Northern Ireland) organisation is training young Serbs and Croats to become youth leaders in the East Slavonic towns of Vukovar and Osijek. Several other organisations working with long-term conflict prevention are receiving support. Sida is also supporting organisations trying to attract attention and rouse public opinion on issues concerning human rights and gender roles.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

In order for Croatia to successfully tackle the transition to market economy, public administration has to be reformed. Sida is focusing on support for modernising the real estate register and the cadastre agency. Support to the national statistics institute is planned in order to create a database making the statistics available to the public. Development of local self-governance and a national audit office are possible areas of future support. ■



MATS SUNDGREN

KEEPING COMPANY. The sheep are both her friends and her income. Vesna Rovandic recently returned to the Lika region in Croatia after six years as a refugee in Serbia. Her life as a refugee became unbearable, she says.

"I wanted to get back here at any cost." Through a Sida sponsored project she was given five sheep, a few of which were pregnant. The animals have become a bright spot in her life and a way of supporting herself.

Yugoslavia (FRY)

After the fall of Slobodan Milošević, Sweden has increased its aid to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, FRY (Serbia and Montenegro). The goal is to secure and strengthen the democratic process, and to assist FRY in the transition from a planned economy to a well-functioning market economy. The long-term goal is to facilitate the integration of the country in the region and the rest of Europe.

WAR CRIMINALS

FRY is in great need of international investment and aid. Crucial to this is FRY's willingness to bring its war criminals to court. Sweden supports a programme to further the education of Serb judges and prosecutors, so that they, in collaboration with the International War Crimes Tribunal, will be able to conduct war crimes trials in FRY consistent with the standards set in the Hague.

INFRASTRUCTURE

High priority is given by Sida to the building up of infrastructure, an area where needs are imminent and considerable potential exists for Sweden to contribute both in terms of competence and technology. Prioritised areas are district heating, electrical distribution and the railway system. Institutional co-operation is of great importance.

SOUTHERN SERBIA

In Southern Serbia Sida supports the restoration of the power supply to the valley of Preševo. The region has been neglected and, as a consequence, ethnic tension is widespread. In Preševo, Sida also supports a community development programme where people from six municipalities participate.

HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

The Sida support to human rights and democracy is implemented by several organisations. The Swedish Helsinki Committee is principally concerned with media issues. Kvinna till Kvinna supports women's organisations. Olof Palme International Center co-operates with unions and local non-governmental organisations. Additionally, Sida finances a campaign with the objective to improve relations between people of different ethnic groups.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Institutional development will be one of the main areas of future support. Because of this, several studies have been carried out in the areas of real estate registers, the police system, statistics, as well as national and internal audits. Sida also supports municipalities to strengthen their capacity. Sida plans to direct more support to agriculture and, therefore, a study of the Yugoslav agricultural sector has been carried out. Through a project called Agroinvest, Sida is providing credits to small enterprises in rural areas. Moreover a development project, meant as a pilot project for the whole country, is being planned in the municipality of Topola south of Belgrade. Sida also supports the international financing organisation, IFC, in its work to develop small and medium sized enterprises and improve the conditions in which they operate.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Sida supports programmes for mothers and children carried out by UNICEF. The International Red Cross receives Sida funding for food distribution to internal refugees, the search for missing people and prison visits. ■



AP PHOTO / DARKO VOJNOVIĆ

ACCUSED. A family watches the former president Slobodan Milošević appear before the International War Crimes Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the Hague.

The international community has put great pressure on Serbia to send war crimes suspects to the Tribunal. Sweden

supports a programme to further the education of Serb judges and prosecutors, so that they, in their own country, will be able to manage proceedings consistent with the standards set by the War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague. This would relieve the pressure on the Tribunal.



AP PHOTO / DARKO VOJNOVIĆ

ODLAZI – "GET OUT!" A woman on the street gets something to eat in the midst of the political struggle that would see Milošević ousted from power after the elections in 2000. The Milošević years left Yugoslavia with large-scale unemployment and an economy in shatters.



BENGT AF GEJERSTAM

POWER. The town of Ferizaj/Uroševac is connected to the power lines. During the war the electricity supply network was destroyed. Using modern methods, Sida is rebuilding the network, and installing time electricity meters in each house and apartment. Previously most people did not pay for electricity.



ANDERS GUNNARZ

SOLDIERS HELP. The Swedish battalion in Kosovo collaborates closely with the people in the surrounding villages. Sida is funding small projects carried out by the troops.

Kosovo

Kosovo is formally part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), but since the truce in June 1999 between FRY and NATO, it has been governed by the UN mission, UNMIK. Sweden contributes personnel to administration and surveillance, a peacekeeping battalion and aid for reconstruction and development.

Since the war ended the Swedish development co-operation with Kosovo has been substantial and far-reaching. Rebuilding the infrastructure has been a high priority with specific programmes that target the railway, district heating, electricity supply and telecommunications.

Sida is one of the biggest donors in the area of house rehabilitation. Sida also takes part in programmes that safeguard food supplies and improve the environment.

After the war in Kosovo, Sida focused on rebuilding what had been damaged during the fighting. Later, the focus shifted to the building up of public administration. In the future a great deal of resources will be allocated to the area of human rights and democracy, as well as to institutional capacity building

INFRASTRUCTURE

A large part of the Swedish assistance to Kosovo is allocated to the rehabilitation of infrastructure. Sida has worked with securing the supply of electricity and heating already since the autumn of 1999. Today, one project focuses on the production of electricity to the town the Albanians call Ferizaj and the Serbs Uroševac. In Pristina and Gjakova/Djakovica, Sweden has contributed to the restoration of the district heating system which was in a bad state due to mismanagement and neglect. The transport system is also in an appalling state. Railway traffic could not run after the war and was in desperate need of support. Sida has funded a study of the transport sector that will form the basis for future investments. A repair shop has been restored so that locomotives and wagons can be maintained. Furthermore, Sida is supporting a number of experts to back up the railway organisation. Sida has also restored a bridge that is vital for the Kosovo Serbs travelling to Serbia.

RECONSTRUCTION

House reconstruction is another area of considerable importance to Kosovo. Only a few months after the fighting had ended, several Sida-funded organisations started to rehabilitate schools and houses in the region. The work was done through so-called Integrated Area Programmes that rest on the principle of self-help aid. Included in these programmes is the restoration of local infrastructure like wells, roads and bridges. To be able to support themselves, the villagers are supplied with means such as seed, hens, tools, bees and fruit trees. The implementing partners in these programmes are organisations such as Caritas, Erikshjälpen, Lutheran World Federation and PMU-Interlife.

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

The agricultural sector is the very foundation of the Kosovo economy. The majority of the population are farmers. Thus, to convince refugees to return home, it has been of considerable importance to jump-start the



LOOK WHAT I CAN DO! In Kosovo Sida has rehabilitated many schools that had been destroyed or were in decay.

In the beginning of the 1990s, the Yugoslav regime then in force closed all the

Albanian schools. After that, the teaching of children in Albanian had to be done in secret, in cellars and private homes. Right after the war Sida also funded the printing of textbooks.

agricultural sector. Sida has supported programmes for repairing tractors and combined harvesters, as well as establishing a statistics system for agriculture. A programme headed by FAO, with the purpose of improving food monitoring in Kosovo also receives Sida support. Sida is also participating in the building up of a cadastre and land information system.

In Gračanica, situated within the Swedish battalion's area of responsibility, Sida is clearing two tailing dams in a mining area contaminated by an old processing plant. The dams are polluting air and water. In another project in Pristina, school children are collecting cans to promote recycling and raise environmental awareness.

HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Sida's support to Kosovo in this area mainly focuses on issues concerning civil society and independent media. The main implementing partners are Olof Palme International Center and the Swedish Helsinki Committee. A local organisation is supported in its work to establish an IT-academy where interactive teaching in democracy will take place.

Kvinna till Kvinna supports local women's organisations – also of minority groups like Serbs and Roma – helping women and children who have been battered and sexually abused, as well as girls who have dropped



THE SHADOW OF WAR. Many women in Kosovo lost their men in the war. Now they live under difficult conditions. Supported by Sida, the Swedish organisation Kvinna till Kvinna assists women's organisations training these women so that they can support themselves and their families.



BENGT AF GEIJERSTAM

READY TO MOVE IN. In Southern Kosovo the Swedish organisation PMU-Interlife is building new houses and repairing the damaged ones.

Swedish volunteers are helping this elderly woman

to build a new house, as her old home is in a tumbledown state. Sida is supporting a number of projects aimed at rehabilitating houses and infrastructure damaged by the war.



ANDERS GUNNAR TZ

YOUNG PATRIOT. A boy dressed in a guerilla uniform recites a nationalistic poem in front of his class. After the war, Kosovar Albanian nationalism has come into full view, and it is passed on to the next generation. In Gajre, Southern Kosovo, each year the villagers hold a day of remembrance of a Serb attack on the village.

out of school. There are a number of organisations working to increase the number of women in politics.

HEALTH CARE

Sida is financing a project for improving the hospital's capacity to maintain and repair hospital equipment.

ADMINISTRATION

Sida is planning to allocate considerable resources to Kosovo's 30 democratically elected municipalities. The UNMIK regulation regarding the municipalities has not been as efficient as was hoped, partly because the democratically elected representatives have not had enough information about the municipal economy. Sida will therefore support the training of municipal administrators in using modern financial systems. ■

Albania

Still suffering from years of communist dictatorship, Albania is one of the poorest countries in Europe. During the last decade Albania has been exposed to recurring blows like hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees and internal conflicts. But now the situation has stabilised. The process toward a stabilisation and association agreement with the EU is still in its initial phase. In order for this agreement to be struck, Albania needs to revamp its legislation, public administration and judicial system, which is, of course, an enormous challenge.

The Swedish development co-operation with Albania is in its first phase, and initially it has a broad focus on public administration, human rights, democracy, trade, rural development, health and environment.

ADMINISTRATION

To help the country in its efforts to a closer relationship with the EU, Sweden is supporting the

National Institute for Statistics to improve its methods for collecting economic statistics. Sida is also financing studies in areas like revision, asylum migration etc.

LOCAL CAPACITY

One of the objectives of the Swedish development co-operation with Albania is to strengthen both municipal and central administration. In the Korça region, Sida is running several programmes with the objective of building local capacity. To increase local trade, one of the programmes focuses on building market places. There is also a joint project between Korça and adjacent regions in Macedonia that encourages the villagers to take care of their own problems instead of waiting for the government to act. To this end, a fund has been set up, to which the villagers can apply for means for projects the villagers themselves have decided upon.

CORRUPTION & WEAPONS

Sida also supports a programme to fight corruption in Albania. The

Council of Europe heads the effort that has provided the Minister for the Interior with an anti-corruption unit. UNDP, the UN organisation for development, is carrying out a project, partly funded by Sida, to inform and create norms for the disposal of weapons. The municipalities receive funding in exchange for returned weapons.

HEALTH CARE

Albanian health care is poorly developed. One of the main problems is that the hospitals do not have the knowledge nor the tools to maintain hospital equipment. Sida is funding a project to improve maintenance at hospitals. Mental health care is another area in an appalling condition. Sida supports mental health care reforms set to lower the number of mentally ill in institutions, while also establishing day care centres better suited for their needs. This will provide the mentally ill with professional care and ease the burden on their families.

ENVIRONMENT

Sida has carried out an environmental study of the Balkans and has decided to engage in Albania, Kosovo and Serbia. In Albania this means co-operating with the Ministry of Environment as well as a program for improving waste management at the city dump in Tirana. ■



MATS SUNDGREN

ROAD MARKET. Almost 50 years of a planned economy have taken their toll. Now Albania is taking its first steps toward a market economy. Along the roads people are selling fruits and vegetables. To improve the hygienic conditions and boost the commerce, Sida and the local administration in the region of Korça are building three new market places.



MATS SUNDGREN

BETTER DAY CARE. Valentina Vangjelovska is the head of a local women's group in the village of Gorricë e Vogël in Albania.

They are working to improve conditions in the poor village. Their first project is to rehabilitate the kindergarten that has

been in decay for many years. They have applied for money from a Sida fund, but in order to be granted the money they need to mobilise the whole village to help in their task.

The villagers belong to the Macedonian minority in Albania.



LAUGHING AWAY. Playing, laughing and touching are good ways of bridging the gap between people.

On a Saturday, at a school in the Macedonian capital Skopje, children from different ethnic groups – Macedonian, Albanian, Roma and Turkish – are laughing and romping. In the weekdays

they all go to separate schools, speak different languages and do not meet people from other ethnic groups.

Thanks to the organisation Children's Theatre, funded by Sida, they can meet. The organisation is planning to open an actual theatre for children in Skopje.



HARVEST. Kire Borimečkovski, in Resen, South Macedonia, like almost all the region's apple planters, has a hard time finding customers willing to buy his fruit. The producers have to come together to survive, but they lack organising experience. Sida is assisting the producers, but they have to propose the solutions themselves.

Macedonia

Macedonia has been an independent state since the collapse of Yugoslavia in 1991. But internal conflicts, as well as a long-standing dispute with Greece, have put pressure on the young nation. The fighting that erupted in 2001 between an Albanian guerrilla movement and government troops has rocked the nation and deepened the rift between the Albanians and the Slav majority. A peace agreement, in tandem with a change of the constitution, will increase the rights of minorities.

Sida's strategy aims at supporting the peace process, democratic development, human rights and a sustainable economy. In each programme, Sida wants to support all ethnic groups to overcome their differences and prevent future animosities.

ADJUSTING TO THE EU

Macedonia has signed a stabilisation and association agreement with the EU.

This agreement is the first step toward future membership. Both parties have agreed to undertake a number of measures concerning, for example, customs policies and regional co-operation. In the light of this, a large part of the Swedish assistance can be seen as supporting Macedonia's adjustment to the EU.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Sida supports a programme for improving poor, rural communities. The objective is to help the inhabitants take care of their own problems through proposing projects that they carry out themselves. Bad health is a great problem in these communities with contaminated water and poor waste management. Unemployment is another problem, running as high as 50 percent in some areas. Sida supports small and middle-sized businesses with advice and micro credits in order to reduce unemployment and improve the difficult economic situation.

A project in the southern parts of the country aims at furthering co-operation between people in three municipalities and finding ways to mobilize the community in order to create jobs and improve services and infrastructure. A similar programme is implemented on the other side of the border to Albania.

AGRICULTURE

The Federation of Swedish Farmers is carrying out a Sida funded project to develop democratic and independent farm organisations, strengthen institutions as well as improve market information, the aim being to help the Macedonian farmers to become more market-oriented.

RECONCILIATION

Sida supports a children's theatre and a children's television programme both aiming at bridging the gap between the different ethnic groups.

Sida also supports a program to train Macedonian journalists. Reporting in Macedonia has to become more professional; now it is often biased and based on rumours and prejudice. ■

Sida's partners in the Balkans

Several Swedish and international organisations are active in the Balkans. Below are Sida's largest implementing partners.

Kvinna till Kvinna (Woman to Woman; ktk) supports women and their organisations in the Balkans. ktk has staff in all the countries of former Yugoslavia and Kosovo and Albania assisting women's organisations to develop and co-operate. A crucial part of its work is to help women to share experience over borders and ethnic lines. The Sida financial support to ktk in 2001 was SEK 30 million. www.iktk.se

The Swedish Helsinki Committee (shc) mainly focuses on support to independent media organisations. shc's main objective is to support democratic development and create opportunities for people to obtain objective information from skilled sources. In 2001 Sida financed shc's Balkan operation with SEK 27 million. www.shc.se

Cultural Heritage without Borders (chwb) supports the rehabilitation of cultural property in the Balkans. Behind the organisation are some of Sweden's leading experts in restoring cultural property. In addition to carrying out the rehabilitation of buildings, chwb also contributes to the local organisations with seminars and training. Sida contributed SEK 7 million to chwb in 2001. www.chwb.org

The Olof Palme International Center (opic) has strong links with the Swedish Social Democratic Party. The organisation supports some 30 organisations, institutions and media organisations committed to the enhancement of human rights, democracy, peace and trade-union matters. The Sida support to opic amounted to SEK 10 million in 2001. www.palmecenter.se

Proni (Project Northern Ireland) is a Swedish organisation that was established to contribute to reconciliation between young people in Northern Ireland. Later Proni's focus shifted to the Balkans (Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia). In co-operation with local organisations, Proni is training young people to become youth leaders who will work with ethnically mixed groups. The Sida support to Proni in 2001 was SEK 14 million. www.proni.se

PMU-Interlife is the Swedish Pentecostal Mission's international development organisation. Funded by Sida, PMU-Interlife carries out integrated area programmes in Bosnia (where the organisation is called Crossroads International) and Kosovo. In addition, PMU-Interlife offers humanitarian assistance to Serbia, where it distributes food and necessities. This is all done with Sida support, as is a reconciliation project in Macedonia. In 2001 Sida supported PMU's integrated area programmes with SEK 40 million, and the humanitarian assistance with another 7 million. www.pmu.se

Caritas Sweden is the relief organisation of the Catholic Church. The organisation carries out rehabilitation programmes for apartments in Sarajevo in Bosnia and houses in Kosovo. Included in these projects is



BACK IN SERVICE. The mosque in Maglaj, Bosnia, is one of the buildings that the Swedish organisation Cultural Heritage without Borders has helped to restore.



SEEKING RESCUE. The refugee situation in the Balkans is hard to take in. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, estimates that more than half a million people have had to flee their country. In addition, more than 600,000 people are so-called internally displaced persons, people who have been forced from their homes to other parts of the same country. To the latter category belong the more than 230,000 Kosovo Serbs, who fled to Yugoslavia (FRY) after the war. In FRY live another 400,000 refugees from Croatia and Bosnia.

In Bosnia there are 550,000 internal refugees divided between the two entities Republika Srpska and the Federation. Croatia has 7,000 refugees and

30,000 internally displaced persons.

In 2001 the streams of refugees yet again became visible. This time the conflict in Macedonia forced 80,000 ethnic Albanians to take refuge in neighbouring Kosovo (above) and tens of thousands of Macedonian Slavs to leave their homes.

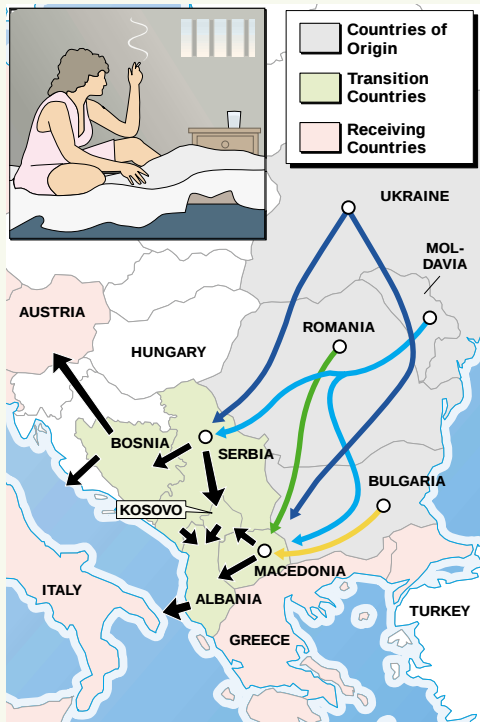
Sida has allocated considerable resources to humanitarian assistance to the refugees in the Balkans. In the case of Macedonia alone SEK 10 million was directed to internal refugees and to those who fled across the border to Kosovo.

A large part of the humanitarian assistance to FRY has been directed to refugees, internal refugees and other exposed groups.

ANDERS GUNNARITZ

VADIM GHIRDA / PRESSSENS BILD

TRAFFICKING IN THE BALKANS



TRAFFICKING. Sida supports the International Organisation for Migration, IOM, in its counter-trafficking programme for the Balkans to help women and children caught in the webs of the sex industry. The Balkans have become an important route in the illicit traffic in women to Western Europe. At the same time the local market for sex has grown steadily, in the wake of the wars and the international missions.

In collaboration with police and international organisations, IOM helps women escape from their pimps, who, often through coercion or false pretences, have forced them into prostitution.

The women are given shelter and medical aid, and, later, they receive help to return to their homes and start a new life. IOM also has offices in the originating countries in order to be able to continue to assist women, but also to prevent other women from being ensnared.

In Kosovo, IOM is running an information campaign, funded by Sida, to make foreign aid workers, UN police and the international task force aware of trafficking, its spreading and consequences. With this campaign, IOM also tries to reach women afflicted by trafficking to inform them where they can turn for help.

support to returning refugees. Sida supported Caritas Sweden with SEK 20 million in 2001. www.caritas.se

The Swedish Rescue Services is the biggest implementor of Sida's integrated area programmes (i.e. rehabilitation of houses and infrastructure as well as support to returning refugees) in the Balkans. During the war in Bosnia, The Swedish Rescue Services started rehabilitating houses, something it has successfully continued to do in other parts of the region. Sida allocated SEK 60 million to their projects in 2001.

The Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe was adopted in 1999 following the end of the war in Kosovo, in an effort to bring the countries of the region closer to one another through joint programs and co-operation. Sida funds several programmes implemented by the pact. They range from promoting IT and fighting trafficking to others that aim at raising the standards of journalism and battling corruption. www.stabilitypact.org

Sida is also participating in other region-wide programs to promote human rights and democracy. **The Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)** is raising the standards of journalism by collaborating with and training local journalists. On its website, IWPR publishes articles about the region. www.iwpr.net

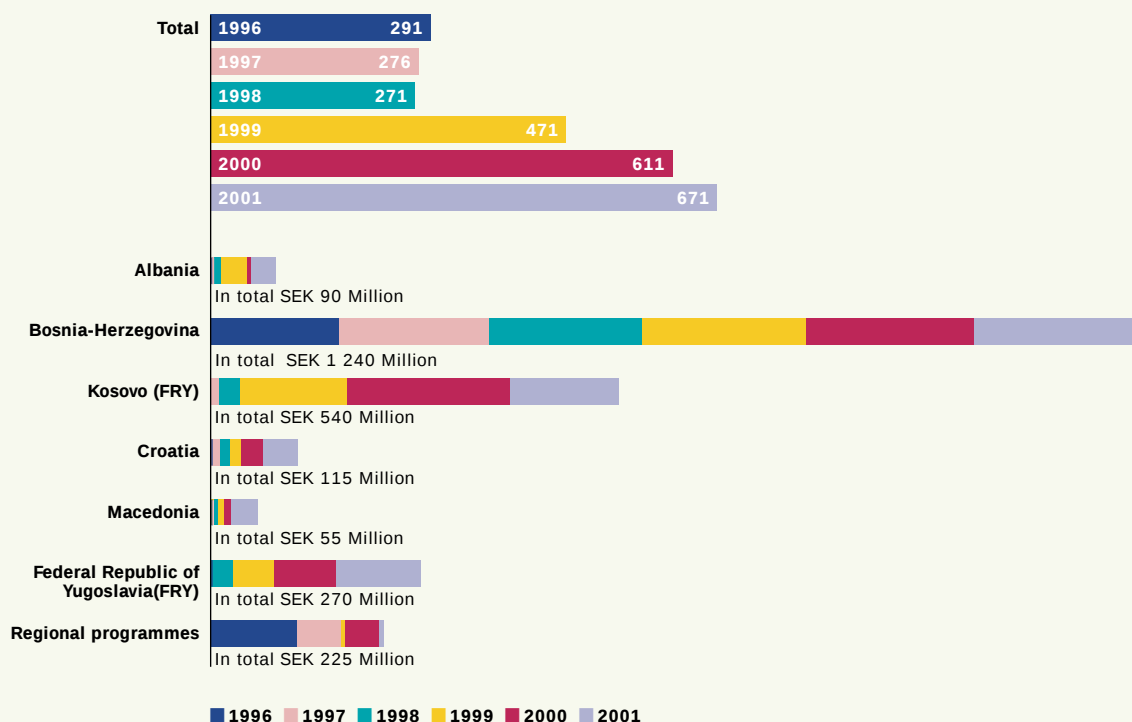
Sida took an active part in the foundation of an organisation supporting the children and youth of the region. **Balkan Children and Youth Foundation** is headed by Martti Ahtisaari, the former Finnish president. www.balkanyouth.org

Sida also co-operates with **Minority Rights Group**, an organisation training local activists in human rights and especially minority rights. www.minorityrights.org

Sida co-operates with a local organisation, **Media Development Loan Fund**, which provides media organisations with low-interest loans, coupled with management training. www.mdlf.org

Sida works with the environmental organisation **Regional Environmental Center (REC)** that monitors the environment in the region. ■

SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION WITH THE BALKANS 1996–2001 (SEK MILLION)



The scope of the Swedish contributions to the Balkans in 2001 exceeds SEK 1,6 Billion. Sida's share was SEK 670 Million as development co-operation and 90 Million as humanitarian aid to re-

fugees. Almost 900 Million was used for the Swedish peace-keeping battalions in Kosovo and Bosnia.

The scope of the Swedish contributions to the Balkans between

1991 and 2001 is approximately SEK 10 Billion, out of which 3,4 Billion consists of development aid through Sida. The Balkans receive approximately ten percent of the international development aid.

At Sida the Division for Western Balkans (EVB) within the Department for Central and Eastern Europe (Sida-East) is co-ordinating all of Sida's assistance to the Western Balkans. Sida-East is also planning and financing the long term reconstruction and development aid while the Department for Co-operation with Non Governmental Organisations and Humanitarian Assistance (SEKA) is responsible for the humanitarian aid. Sida-East has permanent staff in Zagreb, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje and Tirana.

More information about Sida's work in the Balkans can be found at Sida's website www.sida.se.

More copies of this brochure (in Swedish or English) can be ordered at info@sida.se

Yugoslavia's disintegration still causes eruptions of war and violence in the Balkans. The consequences in terms of refugees, dead and mentally disturbed people are enormous.

One state broke up in five new countries and one area governed by the UN and guarded by international troops. In another country, Albania, the fall of communism gave way to disturbances and erosion of civil institutions.

But the disruption seems to be far from over. The new states are weak and politically immature. Some are deeply divided.

At the same time reconstruction takes place. Refugees return. Wounds are healing. Democratic thinking and respect for human rights are slowly gaining ground.

Sweden contributes extensively to the Balkans in the form of humanitarian aid, peacekeeping and support for the UN administration. The Sida long-term development work started in 1995 after the peace in Bosnia, and has since then increased both in scope and volume.

This brochure presents an exposure of Sida activities in the Balkans, with concrete examples of projects.



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