

A force for change



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Cover photograph: Demonstrating against global injustice and for peace at the World Social Forum held in Porto Alegre in January 2005. Over 100,000 activists gathered for the Forum, making it one of the largest global assemblies of civil society organisations in the world.

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Supporting cooperation between
civil society organisations

A force for change

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Commitment and solidarity

This publication is about commitment and solidarity. It is about a belief in the value of supporting poor people who seek to organise and lift themselves out of poverty. It is about the strength and happiness that come from drawing closer to one another, breaking down the barriers created by language, religion, economic systems, disabilities and other cultural categories. Finally, it is about the belief that we can reduce world poverty if we only try.

From 2006, public funds equivalent to 1 per cent of Sweden's gross national income will be earmarked for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance programmes and projects. Part of this funding will go to civil society, as direct support from Sida to NGOs in partner countries, and indirectly through the Swedish NGO and voluntary sector. It is cross-border cooperation between these NGOs that is the real subject of this publication.

"If development activities are to succeed these must be supported and owned locally by the co-operation partners involved."

Support through Swedish non-governmental organisations – the so-called NGO budget allocation, amounting to just over SEK 1 billion – is an instrument for strengthening the civil societies of poor countries. These funds go a long way. In 2005, some 1,000 Swedish NGOs and groups were involved in development cooperation programmes together with over 2,000 organisations and associations in more than 100 countries. One distinguishing feature of this cooperation has been its diversity in terms of both scope and emphasis. While some activities may only reach a few people, others could help change conditions for a significant proportion of the world's poor.

Cooperation between organisations in Sweden and their partners in the South and East is often based on shared values: Christian and trade union organisations, environmental activists, feminists and disabled people are among the groups which frequently share ideologies with their partners in the South. These common value systems help ensure cooperation that is both long-lasting and fruitful for both sides.

Experience gained from many years' active involvement by NGOs in poor countries has also clearly demonstrated that if development activities are to succeed they must be supported and owned locally, by the cooperation partners involved. Thus the work of Swedish organisations today is less concerned with delivering material donations or services and more about strengthening civil society by various means, such as support for organisational development. In a strong civil society, poor women and men, girls and boys, are better able to assert their rights and access the means to lift themselves out of poverty. ■

Development cooperation projects funded via Swedish NGOs are undertaken in partnership with organisations and associations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Partnership



A path to development

Poverty has many causes – war, ill health, unfair trade conditions, lack of human rights, climate change, etc. The list is a long one. Yet the keys to development lie with each individual – in every country. It is here that knowledge of people’s needs and ideas about what should be done is to be found. It is from here, too, that the will and the strength to bring about change must come. These precepts form the basis of Sida’s work.

The bulk of Sweden’s intergovernmental development cooperation

A 2005 survey of attitudes to development assistance shows that the Swedish public have considerable confidence in NGO knowledge and expertise. Many of the respondents rated the organisations highly, and as many as 71 per cent had donated money to a voluntary organisation. According to an interview survey commissioned by Sida in 2005, public commitment in Sweden also increased in the wake of the Asian ‘tsunami’ disaster in late December 2004. Many people identified strongly with the victims and were witnesses to the great benefits provided by the efforts of voluntary organisations.

involves sectoral support, i.e. support for the development of entire sectors of society, such as the healthcare or education system. For a country aiming to achieve democracy and sustainable development, however, civil society is at least as vital a force as the government and the market. Many independent Swedish organisations – churches, trade unions and other stakeholders in civil society – accordingly receive funding from Sida to cooperate with civil society in poor countries.

Cooperation with civil society organisations is also extremely efficient in terms of results and an important complement to bilateral government cooperation. Civil

society has a crucial role to play in the development context: it provides poor and marginalised groups with a voice and consequently enables them to press for social changes that will improve their lives.

Partnerships between NGOs in Sweden and their “sisters and brothers” in other countries are rooted in a long-standing tradition and the NGO budget allocation has always played an important part in Swedish development cooperation. Partnership is based on the principle of reciprocity in the form of closer communication and deepening understanding across language and cultural barriers, as well as actual learning and exchange. While a Swedish organisation may share its knowledge, skills and resources, it also learns from its cooperation partner. Each thus affects the other, while both in turn influence, and are influenced by, global civil society as a whole.

As can be seen in the following pages, partnership can be based on a

diversity of issues, from finding ways to achieve better harvests, to helping disabled people secure a livelihood, to the right to organise independent trade unions. It can also be about helping to move development in the right direction – globally, at regional level, or in a specific country.

Many Swedish organisations raise money for development cooperation projects in other parts of the world. Sida supports much of this work financially by contributing up to 9 SEK for every one crown raised by an organisation. The activities of 14 so-called frame organisations are supported by Sida in this way. These include bodies that distribute development assistance, such as Forum Syd and the Swedish Mission Council, and other organisations that pursue programmes and projects of their own.

Many organisations are also involved in opinion-building as well as the dissemination of information on development issues in an effort to promote greater public awareness in Sweden. These activities also contribute to a development that will ultimately benefit poor people.

Sida grants are made on the condition that funding is used for activities that are consistent with Sweden's policy for global development. Initiatives must therefore be strongly focused on reducing poverty by half by 2015, and on promoting greater respect for human rights.

Projects and programmes should also be based on real needs and the desire for change in the South. It is essential that people retain the initiative and responsibility for their own development.

One of Sida's tasks in this connection is to ensure, through its Department for Cooperation with NGOs, Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Management, that Swedish frame organisations possess the capacity to carry out relevant activities and can set and maintain vital quality standards. Sida also requires NGOs to report on the outcome and financial status of completed projects.

Another task is to draw up regulatory systems and policies for cooperation based on aims and objectives laid down by the Riksdag and the Government. ■

THE 'DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CHAIN'

Support to civil society organisations in the South and East is based on needs in these regions. In the final analysis, the development of civil society and efforts to combat poverty in the South and East are financed by the Swedish taxpayer and by voluntary donations to NGOs.





PHOTO: MOMENT/MARKUS MARCETIC

Indian farmer Arakhita Pahan has been hard hit by the agricultural policies of the world's richest nations and their price dumping of food in poor countries. Now no one wants to pay a fair price for his rice.

Global trade – a life and death issue

“No one wants to pay for the rice I grow any longer. The market is flooded with subsidised rice from abroad,” says Arakhita Pagan resignedly. He is just one of thousands of farmers in India hit by the rapid expansion of global trade.

His rice fields seem a long way from the conference centres where the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the EU meet to decide on customs tariffs, export regulations and patents. But in many poor areas of the world, harvests have become virtually worthless when other countries sell their surplus produce at low prices. The agricultural policies of rich coun-

tries have led to food price dumping, which not only adversely affects poor farmers and their families, but also has a negative impact on many countries' economic development.

The devastating effect of underpriced agri-food products in developing countries has prompted the involvement of the Christian development organisation Diakonia, which is now working with local partners around the world for global fair trade.

Another issue affecting the existence of millions of poor people around the world is patents that award companies the sole right to produce and market medicines and plants. In principle, this means that patented plants ►►►

may not be used in traditional medicine without permission from the patent owner.

“My people have been using the nim tree for medicines, toothbrushes and healing salves for over 10,000 years. An American company tried to take out a patent on the tree’s genetic code. It’s simply outrageous!” exclaims Indian professor Bhagabatprasad Rath in exasperation at the injustices resulting from the WTO patent agreement.

Terms and effects

Many Swedish voluntary organisations, such as Church of Sweden Aid, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation⁵, Forum Syd and Diakonia, seek to draw attention to global trade agreements. In their view, trade can be a powerful force in the fight against world poverty. The key issues here are the terms under which trade is conducted and the effects of trade on poor countries. The ultimate goal is trade agreements that contribute to sustainable development; a minimum requirement is, however, that they should not run counter to the international community’s development assistance efforts.

“Global trade agreements were widened when the WTO was established in 1995. Previous agreements were mainly concerned with customs tariffs and trade barriers on industrial goods. Since the reconstruction of the organisation, however, they have included agriculture, patents and trade in services. This has had a direct impact on the everyday lives of people in the world’s poorer countries who often find it difficult to hold their own in the distorted competitive conditions prevailing in today’s global markets,” explains Tove Zetterström, who works with trade-related issues at Diakonia in Stockholm.

“An American company tried to take out a patent on the nim tree’s genetic code. It’s simply outrageous.”

Diakonia’s Indian network comprises 14 organisations. The Gania Unnayan Committee (GUC) is one of several operating in poor villages in Orissa State. In addition to disseminating knowledge and information about cultivation, profitable investments and alternative sources of livelihood, the organisation helps local residents to organise themselves around current issues and cooperate in selling their products. Results are being achieved in some areas, although they may take time to emerge. People have begun to make demands of the authorities, and some farmers have offered their products for sale in the local market for the first time.

“Obtaining precise, measurable results of Diakonia’s work on trade issues is not that easy as there are many actors and factors involved. But our cooperation partners report annually on the activities carried out and what these have achieved. Conveying poor people’s experience of global trade regulations’ impact on women and men of is one of the tasks undertaken by our cooperation partners,” explains Tove Zetterström.

Diakonia’s cooperation with local NGOs, churches and grassroots organisations is based on a strategy of turning the know-how and commitment of local people to account, while ensuring that economic resources and opportunities to influence decision-makers in the rich world are made available through the organisation.

Back home in Sweden, intensified media debate and greater knowledge and involvement on the part of decision-makers are clear evidence of the impact of Diakonia’s work on global trade issues. Building opinion and promoting a better understanding of world trade



PHOTO: MOMENT/MARKUS MARCETIC

Laxmi Priya Sahoo grows sunflowers, a new plant in her village in the Indian State of Orissa. In the past, rice was their only crop. However, they have now pooled their resources and begun cultivating other crops. Crop diversity has made the village more self-sufficient.

issues is a long-term project which must always keep pace with global developments.

“My part in this undertaking is to work with our cooperation partners to assess the impact of trade agreements and the demands placed on poor countries. We then try to find alternative development strategies and convey information about them to politicians, public officials, journalists and the general public. Diakonia organises meetings, seminars and trips centred on global trade issues. Recently a group of Swedish and Norwegian politicians travelled to Zambia and Mozambique to see first hand the impact of current trade regulations, and to discuss global trade and poverty reduction with our cooperation partners,” Tove Zetterström continues.

Change comes to many

As the work of revising existing global trade agreements continues to gain ground, change is also taking place in the most deprived areas where Diakonia’s cooperation partners are active.

The residents of a village in Orissa, for example, have pooled their resources and begun growing a number of other crops as an alternative to rice cultivation. Today, life has changed for many villagers.

“There is no longer any need for people to fall into debt and lose their fields. I grow sunflowers myself and supply the whole village with oil. In the mornings, when I see them shining in the field, I feel very proud,” says Laxmi Priya Sahoo. ■

See also: [www.diakonia.se] and [www.wto.org]

ECPAT mobilises public opinion against sexual exploitation of children

The voluntary organisation, ECPAT Sweden is dedicated to the elimination of all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children – trafficking, child prostitution, child sex tourism and child pornography. Its work is based on the assumption that what people do in Sweden affects people in the rest of the world.

“Poverty reduction is not only a matter of assistance; it’s also about how we live. If there is a demand for sex with children in Sweden, we must bring our influence to bear here as well. In certain situations it becomes obvious that people believe poverty exists ‘over there’ and has nothing to do with us. But they’re missing the bigger picture,” says Helena Klingvall, ECPAT Sweden’s marketing coordinator.

ECPAT Sweden’s task is to compile data on commercial sexual exploitation of children and pass the resulting information on to people who can take the appropriate action.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a transnational problem: child pornography is published on Internet, children from poor countries are sold to rich countries where

they perform slave labour or ‘work’ in the sex industry. Child sex tourists, on the other hand, move from rich to poor countries.

ECPAT’s goal is consequently that Sweden will become a country that actively combats commercial sexual exploitation of children at national and international levels.

A common code

Accordingly, the organisation has drawn up a code of conduct for travel operators that all Sweden’s major charter carriers have adopted and pledged to follow. The code’s primary aim is the elimination of commercial sexual exploitation of children. Operators who have adopted the code may not, for example, supply customers with information on where to find child prostitutes. In 2004, ECPAT Sweden’s code of conduct was introduced in the USA where it was immediately adopted by some of the world’s major travel operators.

The organisation is also concerned with building public awareness and influencing opinion. Two campaigns aimed at the general public are conducted annually with the aim of generating debate and encouraging people to act and, through their actions, help bring com-

INFORMATION GRANTS

People who want global justice are a strong force for change. They can influence politicians, become involved in development cooperation and share their knowledge with others. For many years, Sida has allocated an amount equal to one tenth of the NGO budget allocation to information projects in Sweden. Some 30 Swedish NGOs have access to the funds which they use to disseminate information and promote social dialogue on global development issues. Their information activities can be regarded as an indirect contribution to the goal of reducing poverty in the world. The more people there are who are committed to the pursuit of global justice, the more they can influence policies and ensure that these promote development in poor countries.



PHOTO: ELIN JONSSON

Prostitutes by the roadside in Russia. International trafficking in women and children for sexual purposes has increased dramatically in the last 10 years. Russia is one of the countries worst affected.

mercial sexual exploitation of children to an end. The organisation uses a number of communication channels, including its own website, advertising campaigns and newspaper articles.

In addition, ECPAT Sweden devotes substantial time and resources to educating key groups capable of contributing directly to change. These include police officers, lawyers, staff at the Swedish Migration Board and politicians. Public awareness of the commercial exploitation of children for sexual purposes has grown in recent years in Sweden. These issues have moved up the agenda and a number of loopholes in the Swedish Child Pornography Prevention Act have been closed following a judicial review.

ECPAT Sweden also runs a hotline – a link to an email address on its website that can be used to send in tips relating to child

TRAFFICKING

Victims of trafficking are sold, deceived, forced or otherwise find themselves trapped in situations from which they cannot escape. Many are forced to work in the sex industry as prostitutes or in the pornography industry, while others are married off.

pornography sites on Internet, or suspected cases of child sex tourism and trafficking.

“We get about a thousand tips a month, which we then pass on to the police,” says Helena Klingvall.

The organisation also encourages other countries to open similar national hotlines to combat child pornography, child sex tourism and trafficking. ■

Read more at: [www.ecpat.se]

Support for victims of trafficking

Anastasia came to Valentina and Irina on a cold February night, wearing only summer clothes and sandals. The Greek police had picked her up on the street, confused and without a passport, and sent her back home to Russia.

Valentina Shelkova and Irina Shiryaeva are psychologists working at the Angel Coalition’s rehabilitation centre in Jaroslavl.

Valentina and Irina recall that Anastasia was in a terrible state when she arrived.

“She was completely terrified. She covered all the windows. She spoke incoherently and could only give a fragmentary account of what she had been through in Greece. She had evidently been drugged – often. We think she was exploited both as a nightclub stripper and as a prostitute. Everything points to this: ►►►

she wanted to wear several layers of loose clothes and washed constantly.”

Valentina Shelkova shows a wish list that Anastasia drew up on one of her first days at the centre. It read: “I want a clean flat, with white windows, white walls, white ceiling, a clean bathroom, a clean toilet, cleaning products, washing powder and soap so that I can wash away all my dirt. I want to be examined by a doctor, to be cured of all diseases. I am afraid of love, men, myself. Please, give me what I need, so I can get back my sense of humour, my childhood, and my soul.”

Anastasia was given food, clothing, sheltered housing and new identity papers. She also met doctors and psychologists. At the centre, which she visited every day, Valentina and Irina helped her get over her fear of people.

“We really wanted to have her admitted to a psychiatric clinic, but she refused,” says Irina. “We can’t force anyone to have treatment here, but we were constantly worried about her, especially at night when she was alone.”

“I am afraid of love, men, myself. Please, give me what I need, so I can get back my sense of humour, my childhood, and my soul.”

This was the first time Valentina and Irina had met a girl who had been trafficked to the West. All the others who had come to the centre had been sold or exploited inside Russia or in one of the former Soviet Republics.

Many victims are recruited in Jaroslavl itself, a run-down industrial town, 250 kilometres from Moscow. Valentina checks through the job advertisements in the local paper. Eight are identical, only the phone numbers differ: “Girls wanted! High wages, free accommodation, flexible working hours. Anonymity guaranteed.”

This is often how it starts, with promises of good pay. But even as more is learned about this form of exploitation, traffickers refine their methods in order to lure new victims. Often, it is not until the girls actually reach their destination that they realise that the ‘good, well paid’ job they applied for is, in fact, something altogether different.

“Sometimes girls are also sold by their own families, or kidnapped,” says Valentina Shelkova. “We had a case of a twelve-year-old girl who had run away from a businessman in Moscow. She had been kidnapped and delivered to the man by her own cousin. We discovered that he used to buy under-age girls directly from poor families here in Jaroslavl. When he tired of one, he simply bought another. Some fifteen girls were bought and discarded in this way, but only this one had the courage to go to the police and testify against him. This says something about the number of unrecorded cases, and how difficult it is to get at the problem.”

ELIN JÖNSSON

(Anastasia is an assumed name)

Read more at: [www.angelcoalition.org]
[www.kvinnoforum.se]

ANGEL COALITION

In the last ten years, half a million Russian girls and women are thought to have been trafficked and sold to some 50 countries. The Angel Coalition is Russia’s biggest and best known anti-trafficking network. Its activities include opinion-building, influencing politicians and disseminating information to schools and the general public. The organisation, which receives funding from Sida through the Swedish foundation Kvinnoforum, also helps to rehabilitate victims of trafficking.



Qadri of Save the Children Sweden in Pakistan talks to child prisoners held in Haripur prison in Peshawar.

Justice for children in Pakistan

In 2004, Wasil Khan, aged nine and his twelve-year-old brother Sadiq, were sentenced to prison for crimes their relatives were accused of committing. Hamid Saeed was nine when he received a prison sentence after, under torture, admitting to a crime he had not done. Fourteen-year-old Qismat Ali was sentenced to prison for 43 years following admissions extracted under torture.

All four are the victims of a harsh legal system where poor children are especially vulnerable.

In Pakistan, thousands of young people are held in prisons under appalling condi-

tions. Extreme overcrowding, poor food, physical abuse and depression are commonplace. Long periods on remand mean that many imprisoned children have not yet had their cases heard.

The Juvenile Justice Network (JJN) seeks to ensure that children's rights are upheld in the legal process. In addition to working to improve conditions for children in certain prisons, JJN conducts lobbying activities, public campaigns and educational programmes for the police, prison staff and the courts. Save the Children Sweden is represented in the network, along with four Pak- ►►►

istani child rights organisations and representatives of the country's Ministry of Human Rights.

Education in prison

The network's efforts to improve life for child prisoners have been most successful in Haripur prison in Peshawar, where children receive proper schooling. Here they can also borrow books from the small library, play cricket and learn to use a computer.

Save the Children stays in touch with the children after they leave prison.

"When the children are released we invite them to visit us at our offices, so we can talk to them and they can tell us what they need. They've given us many valuable insights," says Mehmood Asghar, Head of Save the Children Sweden's Pakistan office.

Pakistan, which signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, has also passed the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (JJSO 2000), which lays down rules for the treatment of child offenders.

The ordinance defines a child as a person who is under 18 years of age, and prohibits the death penalty for children. Children must be tried in special juvenile courts. They are entitled to free legal representation and, if convicted, must be detained in special 'Borstal' institutions for juveniles (where they can be "given education and training for their mental, moral and psychological development").

"The problem is that this ordinance has not yet reached the grass roots of the legal system," explains Mehmood Asghar. The government administration lacks the mechanisms to inform the courts, police and lawyers about new legislative amendments.

Courses for prison staff and prisoners

Much of the work of the JJN involves instructing police officers and judges in the applica-



PHOTO: GHULAM QADRI

Twelve-year-old Sadiq and nine-year-old Wasil Khan are serving prison sentences for a crime their relatives were accused of committing, possible due to an old law from British colonial times. The law only applies in the Tribal Areas bordering Afghanistan. The Juvenile Justice Network is campaigning for the boys' release.

tion of the ordinance, while lawyers are counselled in its use when defending children in court. Prison staff learn how to treat children and are informed about children's rights. These courses are showing good results. Shereen Niaz, a Save the Children instructor in Pakistan, gives an example of what new insights can achieve:

"When we started instructing prison staff and juvenile inmates together, the staff were

JUVENILE JUSTICE NETWORK MEMBERS

The network's activities are funded by Save the Children Sweden, with support from Sida. The other members are:

1. SPARC (Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child), Peshawar
2. Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights, Government of Pakistan, Peshawar
3. The Dost Welfare Foundation
4. The Child Rights and Abuse Committee of the Pakistan Pediatrics Association
5. The Aurat Foundation

Save the Children Sweden works to safeguard children's rights in the legal process in many other countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

against mixing with the children. So we got chairs for the former, while the children sat on the floor. After the first sessions, where I tied in the issue of child rights with what Islam teaches us, the staff members stood up and offered their chairs to the children!"

The network also organises courses for the police.

"We talk to them about human rights, especially children's and women's rights. When the new police officers finish their training, they will have a completely different attitude to children to that of their older colleagues," says Mehmood Asghar.

The network scored its greatest success when, after intensive campaigning, it convinced the Northwest Frontier Province to begin applying the provisions of the new ordinance.

A law from colonial times

Certain regions of Pakistan are essentially autonomous, subject to little control by the central government in Islamabad. This

explains why one of the most inaccessible regions in the country, the Tribal Areas along the central Afghanistan border, can still condemn children to death. As recently as 2004,

two young boys under 18 received death sentences, drawing strong protests from Amnesty and Save the Children Sweden.

Wasil Khan, the nine-year-old imprisoned for crimes committed by his relatives, comes from this part of the country. Under an old law left over from British

colonial times, entire families can be arrested and condemned for crimes committed by one of their members. (Amnesty estimates that at least 70 children are currently in prison under this act.)

One of the JJN's most important objectives is the implementation of the new ordinance by all Pakistani provinces.

"It will happen eventually; it's just a matter of time," says Mehmood Asghar confidently. ■

*) *Juvenile Justice System Ordinance 2000.*

Read more at: [www.rb.se] and at the sites of the other network members listed above.

"When the new police officers finish their training they will have a completely different attitude to that of their older colleagues."

Champika can open her own shop

Twentyfour-year-old Champika Subashini is disabled and is forced to use a wheelchair. She recently secured a loan through a Sri Lankan organisation for people with disabilities. The money will be used for a sewing machine and a training course in sewing and cloth cutting. With her family's help, Champika now plans to open a small dressmaking shop in their house, which is conveniently located near the main road.

Champika Subashini lives with her parents and three brothers and sisters in a village in southeast Sri Lanka. Thanks to the Sri Lanka Foundation for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (SLFRD) and its Rehab Lanka project, Champika now has an occupation and hope for a future in which she can support herself and contribute to her family's income.

SLFRD's aim is to help people with disabilities receive training, find employment and generate their own income. The Rehab Lanka project, which has been running for a number of years, provides practical training opportunities, manufactures mobility equipment for disabled people and produces clothes under its own label. The income from the sale of clothes and mobility equipment goes towards the organisation's work of promoting the rights of people with disabilities.

More vulnerable

There are a considerable number of people with disabilities in Sri Lanka. One major contributing factor is the ongoing civil war. Many people have been maimed and disabled by landmines; others have suffered harrowing, traumatic experiences. The war has also left many people impoverished. Approximately 70 per cent of Sri Lanka's 19 million inhabitants live on less than two dollars a day, and one third or more of the country's child-



PHOTO: WENCHE WILLUMSEN

Wenche Willumsen of DHR meets Champika in Sri Lanka. Champika's father is in the background

ren are undernourished. Lack of food and medical care mean more people suffer from deficiency diseases, which lead to disabilities such as blindness and paralysis. Difficulty in maintaining a balanced diet during pregnancy is a common cause of developmental problems in children. Many adults with disabilities risk becoming homeless when their poor families can no longer afford to feed them. Others are physically abused or sexually exploited.

"Life for a poor woman with a disability in Sri Lanka is extremely hard. If she's in an area affected by war, it's even worse. Women here have often had to hide to survive at all," says N.G. Kamalawathie, herself unable to walk following polio.

She is the Chairperson, leading figure and driving force of Akasa, an organisation for women with disabilities. Kamala, as she is known, started Akasa in 1995 with support from SHIA, the joint development cooperation agency of Swedish organisations for people with disabilities.

"Without SHIA there would have been no Akasa," says Kamala.

Akasa's activities, like those of SLFRD, are

aimed at increasing its members' opportunities to earn a living from their own efforts. In its capacity as an advocacy organisation, Akasa also actively seeks to persuade authorities, decision-makers, schools and families to enable people with disabilities to take part in society.

A law aimed at safeguarding the rights of people with disabilities has been in force since 1996. It provides for the right to work and education and mandates accessibility to buildings. While a number of benefits exist on paper – free medical care, free assistive technology devices and funding to help schools adapt to the needs of disabled people – few people at any level know much about disabilities, and disabled people continue to be disowned by their families, excluded from the workplace, ridiculed and stigmatised.

Raising the status of people with disabilities is therefore of particular concern. In addition to training, Akasa extends microcredits which the families of disabled women can use to buy a cow, a sewing machine or perhaps agricultural implements. Akasa loans are granted only if there is a disabled person in the family. This tends to enhance the person's value in the eyes of the family, often the only social safety net in Sri Lanka.

At present Akasa has 3,000 members, all of whom are women with disabilities or their relatives. The majority of these women are unmarried and have at most five or six years of schooling. Concentrated mainly in the two poor districts south of the Tamil-controlled areas of the island, members are organised into village groups so they can support and encourage one another.

Support to Sri Lanka

The international efforts of Swedish organisations of disabled people focus primarily on helping to build corresponding organisations in Sri Lanka. DHR, a national association of Swedish organisations for people with disabilities currently supports efforts by the SLFRD to build up a network of local associations for disabled people

SHIA IN SRI LANKA

SHIA has cooperated with organisations of disabled people in Sri Lanka since the early 1980s. It had a local office in the country for many years; however this was closed down in 2004. The bulk of Swedish support goes to organisational development. The Swedish organisations DHR (for persons with mobility impairments) and FUB (for persons with intellectual disabilities) raise a tenth of total project funds, while SHIA, on their behalf, applies to Sida for the remainder and handles the administrative work.

in the Monaragala District in southeast Sri Lanka. DHR and the Swedish National Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability (FUB) also provide Akasa with joint support aimed at helping the organisation grow. International cooperation undertaken by Swedish organisations of disabled people is based on the principles



N.G. Kamalawathie, the founder of Akasa, an organisation for women with disabilities.

les of solidarity among people with disabilities and human rights for all.

"I feel it is valuable to support efforts to develop networks and organisations in Sri Lanka. By coming together, people with disabilities can exert pressure on government which they could never do otherwise," says DHR Development Secretary, Wenche Willumsen who is currently involved in dialogues with Akasa and the SLFRD on their organisation, projects and working methods.

Such discussions, however, are always conducted with respect for the local organisations' own ideas and knowledge of conditions in the country. ■

Read more at [www.shia.se] och [www.dhr.se]

Oil workers' struggle benefits society

The unionisation of thousands of oil workers marked the start of sweeping social changes. Strike action forced concessions in the form of better pay and working conditions, not just for the oil workers but also for public sector employees in Chad. Their struggle also gave civil society a stronger voice in a country ruled by an authoritarian regime.

Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world. With the discovery of oil in the south of the country however, this may change. In 2000, the Government of Chad received World Bank funding for oil extraction projects and began constructing a pipeline to the coast of neighbouring Cameroon.

Initially the 5,000 Chadian construction and oil workers did not belong to a trade union. They were not covered by a collective agreement and their employers – the Government and an international consortium headed by Esso – dictated terms.

The central union organisation, Union des Syndicats du Tchad (UST), immediately recognised the crucial importance of organising these oil workers. Sixty organisers were trained through the Pan-African Training Programme (PANAF), which receives support from the LO-TCO International Secretariat. These organisers were then assigned to mobilise the oil workers.

Increasing numbers joined

“The organisers talked to the workers in their homes and made them aware of their situation,” relates Michel Barka, National Coordinator for the PANAF project in Chad.

Some of the workers then attended study circles on trade union rights. Benjamin Bon-



PHOTO: LARS BENGTSSON - LOTCO BISTANDSAMAND

The construction of a pipeline from Chad to Cameroon led to stronger union rights in Chad.

gar, union representative at a construction company, was one of them:

“If we run into problems, I have all the tools I need now: negotiating skills and a knowledge of the law,” he explains.

After a series of strikes, the UST successfully negotiated pay increases and better working conditions for oil workers as well as all government employees. The UST drew up a 21 point list of demands. Initially the Government, headed by President Idriss Déby, refused to take these seriously. When a series of three-day general strikes paralysed the country, however, the employers finally gave way. In return, the union movement promised to refrain from industrial action for two years.

The union also has representatives on the national committee set up to ensure that oil revenues are spent on reducing poverty, one of the conditions attached to the World Bank loan.

PANAF – THE PAN-AFRICAN EDUCATION PROJECT

Since 1989, PANAF, the Pan-African Education project, has been run by ICFTU in cooperation with the Pan-African Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU). It was set up for the purpose of introducing the study circle method and laying the foundation for mass education at an affordable price. Fifteen countries currently participate. Another common subject of study and discussion is HIV/AIDS.

By the end of 2004, a total of 1.5 million people in Africa had attended PANAF study circles.

Over the years, the project has helped create a corps of union leaders equipped with a sound knowledge of democracy and human rights. Trade unions have become a force to be reckoned with in many African countries.

The LO-TCO International Secretariat contributes its knowledge and experience of the study circle method and produces basic study material.

LO-TCO International Secretariat was founded by Swedish national trade union confederations LO and TCO.

LO = The Swedish Trade Union Confederation.

TCO = The Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees.

“More people are now involved in decision-making than in the past, when power was concentrated in the hands of a few military officers,” says Peter Jansson, PANAF project manager at the LO-TCO International Secretariat.

The Secretariat supports the creation and development of independent, democratic trade unions throughout the world. The Secretariat’s development cooperation is based on the belief that trade unions must work together on a global scale to counterbalance the pressure of multinational corporations which dominate international trade.

Read more at [www.lotcobistand.org]

Keen interest in democracy issues in Bethlehem

At the Deisha refugee camp in Bethlehem, health, democracy and gender equality are burning issues, as shown by lively involvement in the training courses that form part of the Opportunity House Project.

More than 100 women, men and young people have attended lectures. The ensuing discussions have covered a wide spectrum of issues from social protection systems and the principle of public access to official documents, to sensitive issues such as HIV/AIDS and gender roles.

“A new centre has also been built in Deisha, where the courses will be held in the future. It contains a number of workshops which can be used to generate income for families in the area,” explains Owe Persson, of the Umeå branch of the Swedish Social Democratic Party.

The project, which receives funding from the Olof Palme International Center, has been Owe Persson’s joint responsibility since 2004. He works closely with representatives of the Social Democratic Palestinian Association in Umeå and personnel at Norrlands University Hospital.

“We hope the project will be self-financing. That’s why it must offer a means of support to people living in the camp,” he continues. ■

Read more at [www.palmecenter.se]

Campaign for a just peace in the Middle East

2005 saw the birth of the HOPP¹⁵ campaign. The campaigners, a number of Swedish churches and Christian organisations, demand an end to the illegal Israeli occupation and call for negotiations leading to a peace agreement based on international law and human rights. The organisations behind the campaign seek to contribute to a just peace between Israel and Palestine. In their view, a coordinated campaign is also an effective way of stepping up pressure on governments and the EU to pursue the issue in their contacts with Israel and Palestine. ■

15) HOPP, which also means ‘hope’ in Swedish, stands for “Häv occupationen av Palestina” (End the occupation of Palestine).

Read more at [www.svenskakyrkan.se/tcrot/hopp]

The elderly bear a heavy burden

Aged 64 and widowed, Mrs Teku Tembo Banda lives in a shack in a Lusaka shanty town with eight of her children and nine grandchildren. All seven of her daughters have children with absent fathers. Worse still, none of these daughters has any education or any source of income. They are all dependant on their ageing mother for their livelihood.

Teku recalls when her husband, whose small pension supported the entire family, died in 2001;

“It has not been easy, life changed drastically when my husband died. We no longer get any money or help from his former employer,” says Teku sadly.

After his death, the family has often gone hungry. Teku describes how she struggles to sell all sorts of merchandise in the market in order to raise money to feed herself and the others in the family.

HIV/AIDS has changed the family structure in Zambia; the older generation – especially grandmothers as in Teku Banda’s case – provide most of home based care of the sick. So the older women first care for their dying sons and daughters, and then carry on looking after the many grandchildren left behind.

No support from society

Sixty six year old Isabel Sibongo is Chairperson of the Senior Citizens’ Association of Zambia (SCAZ). She states that any effective response to the AIDS epidemic must acknowledge this burden of care which, she notes, is often carried out with the greatest love and dedication but without support and recognition from the surrounding community.

“Not even the NGOs, except for a few

Catholic congregations, have programmes aimed at the needs of these elderly people. Most NGOs target orphans and other vulnerable children in communities, but forget the people who take care of them, in most cases older women,” says Isabel.

SCAZ was founded in 1999 with the aim of ensuring that responses to HIV/AIDS in Zambia also include the older people who are providing care for the members of their families who are ill. SCAZ is therefore planning advocacy campaigns aimed both at policy makers and NGOs working with HIV/AIDS in order to illustrate the plight of these elderly people. While the retirement age in Zambia is 55, there are no functioning social security systems to support people who have never worked in the cash economy. One of the issues SCAZ is currently struggling with is how a retired elderly person like Teku can manage to feed a family of 15? And how can they cope with the trauma of losing so many of their children to HIV/AIDS?

Collaboration with Caritas

Caritas Sweden and SCAZ have initiated a collaborative effort aimed at providing some solutions to this daunting problem. There are not enough elderly people and they are bearing far too much responsibility in this country where the life expectancy of someone born today is only 40 years – a decrease of 20 years as compared to 1980 – due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. If funding were received from Caritas or any other NGO then SCAZ, which is almost entirely run by volunteers, could certainly do much more for the elderly in Zambia.

“I am sure we can achieve a lot. We can help the senior citizens to acquire some basic home based care skills as well as supporting



PHOTO: BRIGHT PHIRI

Teku Tembo Banda with some of her daughters and grandchildren.

them in their attempts to deal with the emotional trauma of nursing their children on their death beds.” SCAZ also plans to teach the elderly survival skills in order to raise income to support the orphans they will inherit. The organisation also wishes to build a shelter for elderly people who have become homeless.

Through SCAZ, Teku Banda has received psychosocial and emotional support in order to manage her situation.

“I have now met with many other older people who are in a similar position; this

brings me comfort. Last year SCAZ also provided us with some seeds to start small gardens so we could earn some money. Even if the harvest wasn’t very good due to drought, the idea is good,” she says.

Teku would also like help from SCAZ to renovate her leaky mud house where she and her family live, and perhaps to start a small business.

Teku’s struggle to make ends meet since the death of her husband is just one of the many faced by elderly people in Zambia. Thousands of them require assistance so the work undertaken by SCAZ is only just starting. The organization, which depends on volunteers for its operations, must grow and develop both financially and professionally before it will be able to fully implement its goals.

BRIGHT PHIRI

Read more at [www.missioncouncil.se] and [www.caritas.se]

CARITAS SWEDEN

Caritas Sweden is a member of Caritas Internationalis. The organisation is connected to the Catholic church and therefore found in many countries of the world. The Swedish Mission Council acts as Caritas’ party to the agreement with Sida.



PHOTO: SERPAJ/MOC/PARAGUAY

Conscientious objectors stage a 'lie-in' in front of the Parliament Building in the Paraguayan capital Asunción.

'Machismo' loses ground in Paraguay

In Paraguay, the Christian peace organisation Servicio de Paz y Justicia (SERPAJ) has been seeking to promote alternatives to 'machismo' – exaggerated masculine pride based on traditional patterns of male dominance over women.

SERPAJ Paraguay bases its work on the premise that there are clear links between militaristic cultures and machismo. The organisation therefore seeks to change men's roles and promote a culture of peace in Paraguay, a land marked by many years of civil war and dictatorial regimes. SERPAJ uses information campaigns to call traditional male roles into question; these are followed up by discussion groups composed of men of different ages.

"In Paraguay, machismo is deeply ingrained. The role is drummed into boys from a very early age, both at home and in school. As adults, they behave in accordance with these norms – unconsciously. Our discussion group has convinced us even more

strongly that there are alternatives to machismo," says 30-year-old Fernando Rojas, who has been taking part in a group in his home town Ñeembucú Pilar.

SERPAJ Paraguay, a part of the Latin American network SERPAJ, has cooperated with Diakonia since 1993. Another of its concerns in Paraguay is military expenditure. SERPAJ campaigns to reduce spending on the armed services, and actively supports conscientious objectors. Although the country's constitution allows its citizens the formal right to refuse to serve on grounds of conscience, this right is often obstructed by tangled bureaucratic procedures which can block or delay an application indefinitely. SERPAJ has accordingly signed agreements with a number of municipalities and government authorities aimed at making it easier for conscripts to register as conscientious objectors. ■

Read more at [www.diakonia.se] and [www.serpajpy.org.py]

Campaigns against a destructive culture

The Christian message of peace can help disarm a destructive culture of violence. This conviction is what drives Justapaz, a Christian centre for justice, peace and non-violence in Colombia.

Long-drawn-out conflicts between the Colombian Government and armed guerrilla groups are fuelled by widespread criminality based on drug trafficking. Justapaz takes the Bible's message of peace as its point of departure. This approach affords a basis for dialogue on non-violence as a conflict management model, capable of accommodating discussion of everyday conflicts at village level, questions about the ethics of corporal punishment or violence against women, or participation in peace campaigns.

"Using the Bible and Jesus as examples, we try to interpret the reality of present-day Colombia. Our model is not David, who killed thousands of people, but Jesus. This usually comes as a revelation to participants," says Jain Enrique Meza of Justapaz.

One practical result of efforts to promote non-violence is the rise in the number of men who refuse to use arms. This is a significant step forward in an environment where many young people are recruited by paramilitary forces and guerrilla groups. Justapaz is supported by the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation (SweFOR), a member of the Swedish Mission Council. ■

Read more at [www.swefor.org]

Churches in Sudan work for peace

Since its independence from Great Britain in 1956, Sudan has been ravaged almost continuously by civil war. More than two million people have been killed since 1980 and some four million have fled their homes. In recent years, Sudan's churches have spoken out together against the warring parties. In January 2005, a peace agreement was reached between the Government and rebel groups in the south.

The Sudan Council of Churches, which receives support from Church of Sweden Aid, is preparing for peace by setting up a discussion forum for Christians and Muslims. It also organises peace-building programmes for young people.

"We have sat down and discussed peace issues without imposing a religious agenda. We have taken part in discussions as women in need of solidarity, not as Christians or Muslims," says Joy Kwaje of the Sudan Council of Churches.

Social work among the country's many internally displaced people and patient, methodical efforts towards conflict resolution are vital building blocks of an enduring peace. The churches have found that traditional methods of resolving conflicts help people to put ethnic and local conflicts behind them, and to go forward in hope and mutual understanding.

Church of Sweden Aid also works closely with Church Ecumenical Action in Sudan (CEAS), which provides humanitarian assistance for refugees and those now returning to their villages after years of exile. ■

Read more at [www.lutherhjalpen.svenskakyrkan.se]



PHOTO: SCANPIX

A prayer for peace in the Catholic El Kepeaya church in Khartoum, Sudan. The churches of Sudan campaigned together for an end to the civil war.



PHOTO: PERNILLA MALMER

A local seed bank in the Philippines. Masipag collects and refines rice strains to suit local conditions.

Smallholders farm on their own terms

Many farmers in the Philippines use organic farming methods. This means they no longer need to go into debt in order to obtain pesticides, seed for sowing or artificial fertiliser. Masipag, a farmer-led network of popular movements, NGOs and scientists, has been closely involved in this development and has fought for justice and better conditions for farmers since 1987.

“My husband and I carried out an experiment on our farm. He used chemicals on his crops while I farmed organically. His harvest was bigger than mine, but then so were his costs,” says Maria Guzman, a farmer on the Philippine island of Luzon. “Now we farm organically, without artificial fertiliser, pesticides or industrially processed seed.”

Her story shows how cooperation between smallholders and Masipag researchers has persuaded an increasing number of farmers to switch to organic cultivation.

30,000 farm organically

Masipag was a reaction to the prevailing policy of boosting rice production with the help of pesticides, commercial fertilisers and high-

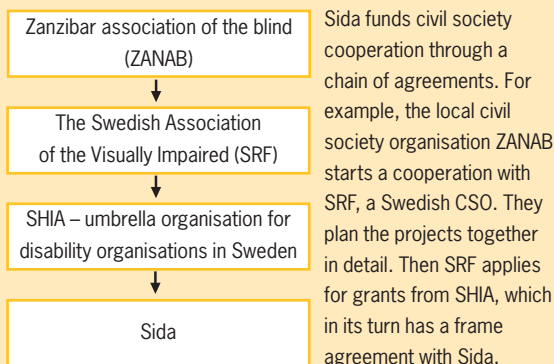
yield rice strains. A group of farmers and scientists founded the organisation to safeguard the interests of small farmers. Using their own varieties as a base, Masipag develops and trains people in agricultural methods designed to free farmers from their dependence on loans and the chemicals industry. The network has over 150,000 members, of which more than 30,000 farm organically.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SNF) cooperates with Masipag. Sida and SNF extend support on an annual basis to help improve living conditions for poor small farmers in the Philippines, and to safeguard their interests in the domestic and international sphere.

“The experience and observations that have come out of our cooperation with the Philippines have been a valuable source of knowledge for us in Sweden. They have helped SNF take up a position on global environmental issues. We also cooperate with Masipag as part of our effort to influence Swedish and international decisions affecting poor farmers,” explains Maria Schultz, Head of the International Department at SNF.

Read more at: [www.snf.se] och [www.masipag.org]

A CHAIN OF AGREEMENTS – AN EXAMPLE



Conditions for CSO cooperation

Building up and strengthening a vibrant and democratic civil society is of fundamental importance in developing countries and reducing poverty. Sida actively supports this process. Capacity building and organisation building in the partner countries is the cornerstone of the programmes of development cooperation pursued by Swedish NGOs and civil society organisations (CSOs) with the support of Sida.

In case a local CSO is interested in entering into a partnership with a Swedish CSO, they are advised to use the website addresses of the 14 Swedish organisations listed at the back of this brochure. Sida's support to a local CSO under the NGO appropriation must be channelled through a Swedish frame organisation. A local CSO enters into and develops close cooperation with a Swedish CSO. The Swedish partner also comes up with at least ten per cent of the total project funding.

Forum Syd is by far the largest Swedish organisation with a frame agreement, and local CSOs are advised to contact Forum Syd and its regional offices for information on and cooperation with Swedish CSOs.

However, there are other forms of Sida cooperation with CSOs. Sida's field offices as well as the regional and sector departments at Sida HQ in Stockholm work frequently with the civil society, supporting organisations directly.* ■

* Read more in Gunnarsson, 2006: *Civil Society Support Models*.

Forum Syd is an umbrella organisation for 200 Swedish CSOs that work with development cooperation. Here are some examples of partnerships with funding through Forum Syd.

SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Malmö-based Swedish association, **Nordgay**, channels funding to the South African organisation, **Triangle Project**, which works to safeguard the rights of homosexual, bisexual and transsexual people.

WOMEN'S CENTRE IN MOGADISHU

The Swedish-based women's organisation, **Hawo Tako Kvinnoförening**, channels funding to a women's centre in Mogadishu, where women from different clans can meet and attend courses in health, organisational skills, entrepreneurship and democracy.

SUPPORT FOR RECONSTRUCTION IN AFGHANISTAN

The **Swedish Afghanistan Committee** (SAK) supports projects in a large number of areas including primary school, water and sanitation, rehabilitation of people with disabilities, agriculture, teacher training for women, local participation in the political decision-making process, and network and skills development in Afghanistan.

STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS

Svalorna Latinamerika works with some **20 grassroots organisations** in Bolivia, Peru, Honduras and Nicaragua. The aim of the partnership is to strengthen these organisations so that they can successfully demand and contribute to societal changes that will benefit poor people.

PROMOTING SPORT

The **Swedish Handball Federation** channels funding for organisational development to the **South African Handball Federation**. The goal of the project is to establish a viable federation at provincial level, working regional federations, district committees and local handball clubs.

Sida support for projects and programmes in civil society is governed by several key documents: Sweden's policy for global development, the UN Millennium Development Goals, Sida's mission statement Perspectives on Poverty, and Sida's policy for civil society.

Policy and key documents

PHOTO: SCANPIX



Sweden's policy for global development

In 2003, the Swedish Riksdag passed the government bill entitled *Shared Responsibility: Sweden's Policy for Global Development*, into law. The new policy is Sweden's contribution to global poverty reduction and the realisation of the UN Millennium Development Goals. If these objectives are to be achieved, everyone must pull in the same direction. Consequently this policy must be implemented in all policy areas, from foreign affairs to trade and agriculture to development cooperation. Civil society – a living network of NGOs, grassroots movements and organisations, religious communities and other similar groups independent of state and market – is regarded as a crucial contributor to global development.

The goal of Sweden's Policy for Global Development: to contribute to an environment supportive of poor people's own efforts to improve their quality of life.

The goal for Sweden's development cooperation: to contribute to poor people being able to improve their living conditions.

Sweden's Policy for Global Development – and thus also its policies on aid and development cooperation – must be formed by two perspectives: a rights perspective and the perspective of the poor. Adopting a rights perspective means embracing the principle that every human being has the right to live in dignity, free from poverty. Thus the new policy focuses more closely than before on vulnerable, discriminated and marginalised individuals or groups. The rights perspective is underpinned by the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its associated conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against

Women (CEDAW).

The perspective of the poor on development reflects the principle that Swedish development cooperation must be dictated by the needs, views and circumstances of poor people.

In many ways, the two perspectives are closely interrelated: poverty is just as much about power and rights as about lack of food, money or a place to stay. Thus the two perspectives can neither be ranked in order of importance nor separated from each other. The mission statement entitled *Perspectives on Poverty* summarises Sida's views on poverty, its causes, consequences and possible remedies.

One of the conditions attached to Swedish cooperation with civil society organisations is that funding should be demand-based, i.e. determined by the needs of NGOs in partner countries. The role of development cooperation is to create conditions for poor women and men, girls and boys, to climb out of poverty through their own efforts. The poor are not merely passive objects, but people with the strength, ability and will to improve their lives, if the opportunities are there. One way of creating these opportunities is to support organisations and processes that poor people take part in and regard as important.

SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THUS ALSO SIDA'S ACTIVITIES MUST SEEK TO PROMOTE AND BE CHARACTERISED BY:

- Fundamental values: democracy and good governance, respect for human rights and equality between women and men.
- Sustainable development: sustainable use of natural resources and protection of the environment, economic growth, and social development and security, including HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Conflict management and security, and global public goods, (e.g. water and environmental resources, combating communicable diseases etc).

The world unites against poverty

The Millennium Declaration was adopted at a Millennium Summit at the United Nations in 2000. It embodies a common commitment to certain fundamental values that the UN and its member states are pledged to support. The Declaration also identifies eight key goals for development – the Millennium Development Goals. These are to be achieved by the joint efforts of all UN member states by 2015.

1| **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.**

Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day.

Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

2| **Achieve universal primary education.**

Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

3| **Promote gender equality and empower women.**

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and at all levels by 2015

4| **Reduce child mortality.**

Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five by two thirds.

5| **Improve maternal health.**

Reduce the maternal mortality rate by three quarters.

6| **Combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.**

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

7| **Ensure environmental sustainability.**

Integrate the principle of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources.

Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

8| **Develop a global partnership for development.**

Increase official development assistance to 0.7 of GNI.

Allow least developed countries access to markets.

Achieve a sustainable debt situation for heavily indebted countries.

Read the Millennium Declaration at:
[www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm]

Websites on the Millennium Development Goals:
[www.un.org/millenniumgoals] and
[www.unmillenniumproject.org]

For Sida, civil society is:

“An arena, separate from the state, the market and the individual household, in which people organise themselves and act together to promote their common interests.”

What is civil society?

People who act together to promote their common interests and achieve common goals are a distinguishing feature of what is sometimes referred to as civil society. Civil society consists of social groups, organisations and networks of different kinds. These have emerged as part of a long historical process and may be seen as an expression of values, traditions and needs generally found in societies.

Certain types of organisation – trade unions, religious communities and sports associations – are common to many countries, while others are specific to certain cultures or religions. Civil society is constantly changing; new organisations and groups come into existence while others disappear. It may contain legal or illegal, democratic or undemocratic associations. They may range from large organisations with hundreds of thousands of members to small groups with only a handful. In Sida's view, as set out in its Policy for Civil Society, civil society is neither good nor bad, but simply reflects the competing forces, interests and needs existing in society at large.

People participate in civil society at many levels. A person may belong to a traditional organisation with an ethnic or religious identity, while also being a member of a women's group, environmental organisation or trade union. Affiliation may be voluntary or, when a person is born into a religious or ethnic group, difficult or impossible to influence. In countries with authoritarian regimes or societies devastated by conflict, a civil society may be difficult to identify as many of its organisations are forced underground. What all these situations have in common is people coming together in some way to promote their collective interests.

Civil society is a force ...

Civil society actors are being taken increasingly seriously by governments, enterprises and multinational organisations – either as discussion partners or as troublesome opponents and critics.

... for economic development

The **freedom to organise** – whether politically or non-politically – around issues relating to everyday life or to the development of society as a whole is a fundamental human right. The freedom to act together is also essential if large groups of poor people are to succeed in changing their lives for the better. Moreover, it is the poor and marginalised who are most in need of the strength that comes from belonging to an organisation, especially as concerns their dealings with the state, the business sector or other centres of power.

Civil society organisations help to combat poverty in many ways. They give prominence to important issues such as gender equality and injustice, while serving as a channel through which poor and marginalised people can articulate and win support for their needs and interests. By running development projects of different kinds, civil society can also be an effective force for poverty reduction. Its organisations are familiar with local conditions and can often reach out to the very poorest sections of the population. ■



PHOTO: ANDERS KAMMENSJÖ

Twenty-year-old Angy lives in the village of Tahnashu in Egypt. She started a small business that she runs from behind the window of her home with the help of microcredits in order to help support her family after the death of her father.

PHOTO: KIM LUBBROOK/SCANPIX



Protesting against the rule of Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe. Several civil society organisations took part in the demonstration, held outside the Zimbabwean Embassy in Pretoria in December 2004.

... for democracy and human rights

Democratic development is seldom rapid or sustained. It is a complex process in which progress and setbacks alternate. Although most of the world's countries have adopted a democratic form of government, much remains to be done.

In an authoritarian regime, civil society can mobilise broad sections of the population to express their dissatisfaction with government policies and to force change. By publicising failures of policy or political deficits, civil society organisations can damage the legitimacy of a government.

In societies where democratic development has made more head-

way, organisations in civil society can enter into dialogue with, and bring influence to bear on, the government in power thereby helping to ensure that its policies enjoy wider support among large sections of the population.

They can also strengthen democracy by disseminating knowledge of how the democratic process works, as well as citizens' rights and obligations. Of equal importance is their role in the development of a democratic culture. Provided they are democratic in their structure and values, they can function as training centres for democracy. ■

... for conflict management, peace and security

In a country with an active civil society made up of numerous groups interacting with one another the prospects of checking and preventing violent conflicts are good. Cooperation between organisations helps create structures for dialogue, confidence and trust between ethnic, religious or political groups. In weak societies, where groups have little or no contact with one another and there is latent dissatis-

faction, mistrust and antagonism are far more likely.

Civil society can often play a decisive role in areas recovering from violent conflict. During the reconstruction process, when the legal system and government institutions are often fragile, civil society can help maintain security and stability by acting as a mediator and promoting dialogue. ■



PHOTO: OME PERSSON

Courses at the Opportunity House in Bethlehem help promote public health, democracy and ensure that human rights are observed.

PHOTO: MARIANA BAZO/SCANPIX



Thousands of people demonstrated at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre in January 2005. The forum is now one of the largest assemblies of global civil society organisations in the world.

... as a growing global arena

The world is shrinking as technological advances such as Internet, the growth of travel and trade and increased inter-governmental cooperation brings us all closer together. A growing number of issues such as the management of shared water resources, the preservation of biological diversity and the prevention of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, transcend national borders. This mutual dependence is increasingly forcing us to cooperate and take more decisions at global or regional level.

These developments pose challenges as well as opportunities. There is a danger that democratic participation will be more difficult as power increasingly shifts to regional or global bodies. On the other hand, opportunities to shape opinion

across national borders and establish new alliances are greatly enhanced. A global civil society is now emerging as more and more people seek cooperation across national borders.

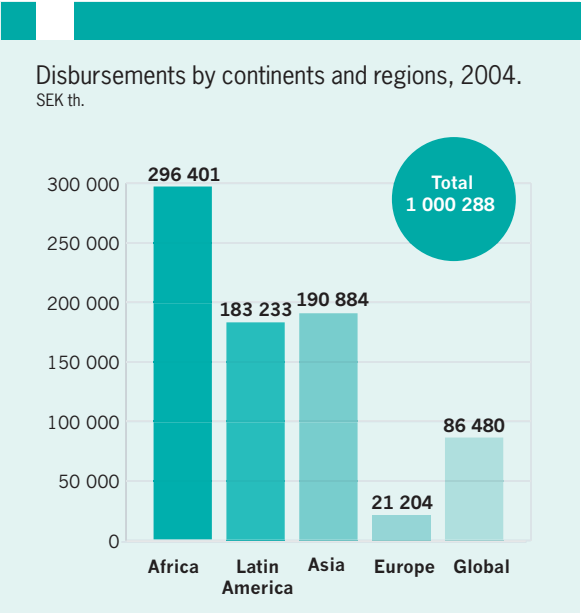
Many organisations work in international networks, united by their common interests and the will to bring influence to bear wherever power is exercised.

In these circumstances, it is vital that international institutions, whose decisions affect many people, are democratic, transparent and open to influence and demands for accountability. They must also be able to listen to individuals and groups in civil society who can advance important issues and perspectives that would otherwise disappear. ■

Statistics

Disbursements to 'frame' organisations for development cooperation, 2005. SEK th.			Information grants. SEK th.
Organisation	South	East	
Forum Syd	175 124	17 500	17 050
Swedish Mission Council	124 426	1 000	4 790
Save the Children, Sweden	120 000	1 000	1 200
Swedish Cooperative Centre	107 490	4 500	5 300
LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Co-operation	100 030	9 000	15 100
Diakonia	95 500	–	5 600
PMU InterLife	95 000	1 000	4 500
Church of Sweden	73 854	432	2 100
Olof Palme International Center	64 000	12 000	4 200
SHIA	37 219	2 500	3 000
Africa Groups of Sweden	35 000	–	4 500
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation	21 500	3 500	3 650
UBV	17 000	–	–
Total	1 066 143	52 432	70 990
Swedish Red Cross (framework grant for humanitarian assistance)			15 000
			3 860

Source: Sida. For a more detailed statistical analysis, see www.sida.se/ngo.



South =
developing countries as defined by OECD/DAC. In addition to many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, this category also includes low-income countries such as Moldova.

East =
countries that Sweden cooperates with on common security and closer collaboration, such as Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Belarus.

Information grants in Sweden

Information grants were awarded to 30 Swedish organisations and adult education associations in 2005. Just over SEK 118 million went to information projects in Sweden in 2005. In addition to the 'frame' organisations (see facing page), the following NGOs received information grants:

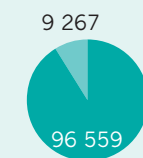
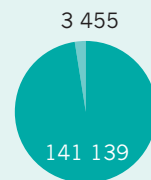
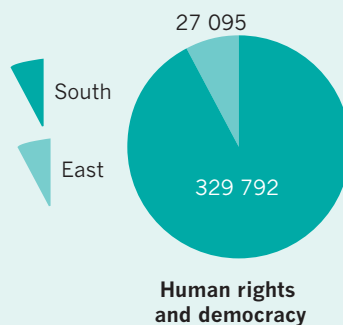
ORGANISATIONS

Barnens Värld
ECPAT Sweden
Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation
Kvinna till Kvinna
National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations
Swedish Afghanistan Committee
United Nations Association of Sweden
Swedish Christian Council
Unicef Sweden
World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)

ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS

Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund (ABF)
Nykterhetsrörelsens bildningsverksamhet (NBV)
Sensus studieförbund
SISU Idrottsutbildarna
Studieförbundet
Studieförbundet Bilda för kyrka och samhälle
Studieförbundet Vuxenskolan

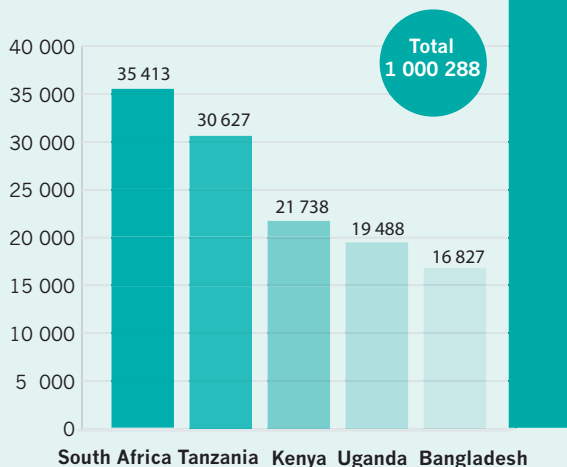
The 3 largest development cooperation sectors funded through Swedish NGOs. Disbursements 2004. SEK th.



Total 1 000 288

Other countries and regions
876 195

The five largest countries, 2004
(disbursements, NGO appropriation. SEK th.)





Missionaries were the first to carry out social work in Africa.

History

Throughout the 20th century strong popular movements in Sweden, including the labour movement, the women's movement and the trade union movement, fought for the principle that all human beings are equal. A number of these movements – some religious in character, others political in orientation, still others affiliated to the trade union movement – were actively involved from the start in helping poor and oppressed people in other parts of the world. Swedish missionaries led the way, opening missions in Africa in the second half of the 19th century.

1866 The first Swedish missionaries go to Ethiopia. Swedish missionary organisations expand their work in Africa in the following century. Their social work is mainly focused on education and health.

1945 The Swedish Committee, established after the Second World War, provides international assistance for refugees and war victims. Though funded by the Government, the committee includes representatives of trade unions, employers and religious and humanitarian organisations.

1952 The seeds of Swedish government-funded development assistance are sown with the creation of the Central Committee for Swedish Technical Assistance to Less Developed Areas on the initiative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Its task is to establish project proposals,

Poster for the Sweden Helps campaign, which ran from 1955 to 1961. Its aim was to arouse sympathy among Swedish citizens for the poor in 'underdeveloped countries'.

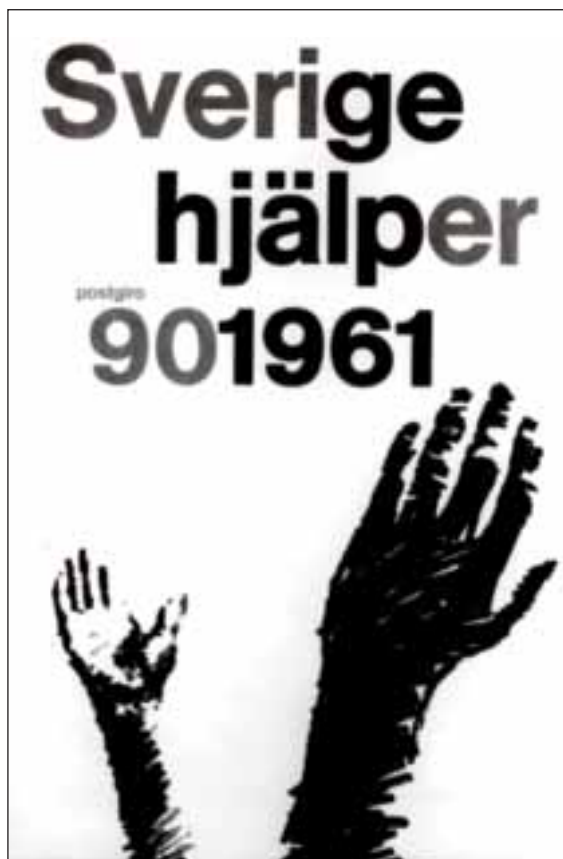


PHOTO: PRESENS BILD

apply for government funds and implement projects. The committee, organised as a foundation, is made up of representatives of 44 NGOs, the Government and the business sector. Initially, it is mainly concerned with providing developing countries with technical know-how and expertise

1955 The committee launches a campaign entitled Sweden Helps, with the principal aim of mobilising public opinion in support of government-financed assistance to “underdeveloped” countries. Much of the campaign is devoted to revealing the extent of misery and poverty in these countries and winning the sympathy and solidarity of the Swedish public. It also raises money for ‘development aid’, the contemporary term.

1962 The first government bill proposing state-funded development assistance is laid before the Riksdag.

Known as the “development aid bible”, the bill sets out the following key objectives:

1. Economic growth,
2. Economic and social equality,
3. Economic and political independence, and
4. Democratic development.

1963 The Swedish International Development Assistance Board, a government agency, is created. The agency, whose governing board includes representatives of Swedish NGOs, is strongly

criticised in the media and is replaced by SIDA after only a few years in existence.

1965 The new Swedish International Development Authority, SIDA, is created. For the first time, government funding is channelled – through SIDA – to NGOs involved in development activities. Though funding volumes are modest by today’s standards, many NGOs are now able to expand their assistance and development activities.





PHOTO: PRESENS BILD

2000. Protests in Prague during the meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The UN Millennium Development Goals, which committed signatories to halve world poverty by 2015, were adopted in the same year.

1968 The Riksdag takes a decision-in-principle to the effect that development assistance should amount to 1 per cent of Sweden's GNI.

1975 The 1-per-cent target is reached and maintained for 10 years, with the exception of 1984.

1979 Introduction of the '20/80 rule': if an NGO can raise 20 per cent of the cost of a project or programme SIDA will put up the remaining 80 per cent. Thanks to SIDA, a donation to an aid organisation is now worth five times as much.

1995 SIDA changes its name and abbreviation, to Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation

Agency. International support for research and enterprise, previously administered by other authorities, now becomes a Sida responsibility.

1996 Two new development cooperation policy goals are introduced; gender equality and environmentally sustainable development, bringing the number up to six.

2000 The world's governments sign up to the Millennium Development Goals at the UN, thereby pledging to reduce world poverty by half by 2015.

2003 The Riksdag adopts a new Policy for Global Development under which poverty reduction is defined as the

unequivocal, overriding goal of development cooperation. Development cooperation is no longer Sida's responsibility alone but becomes a matter of concern for the entire government administration. The 1 per cent goal has still not been met. In 2004, development cooperation accounts for 0.868 percent of GNI.

2005 NGO self-funded contributions reduced to one tenth. For every crown raised by a development organisation, the government now provides ten. Just over 8 per cent of the total government appropriation for development cooperation is now channelled through NGOs.

2006 The 1-per-cent target is reached.

Literature

POLICY DOCUMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Perspectives on Poverty. Sida, 2004.

Shared Responsibility: A brief description of Sweden's policy for global development, 2003. (download at www.regeringen.se).

Policy: Promoting Gender Equality in Development Cooperation. Sida, 2005.

Policy: Promoting Peace and Security through Development Cooperation. Sida 2005.

ON HUMAN RIGHTS

A Democracy and Human Rights Based Approach to Development Cooperation. Sida 2001.

Against Trafficking in Human Beings. Sida 2005.

The Rights of the Child in Swedish Development Cooperation. Sida 1999.

The Environment and Human Rights – Links and Conflicts. Sida 2003.

ON SIDA SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY

Sida's Policy for Civil Society, 2003.

The best way to predict the future is to create it. The NGO and its global contribution: Instrument or Utopia? Conference report. Sida, 2005.

Sida Studies No. 13: Transforming Conflicts and Building Peace. Experience and Ideas of Swedish Civil Society Organisations. Sida 2005.

Civil Society and Poverty Reduction – A Guide for Development Practitioners. For personnel in development cooperation. Sida, 2004.

Support for Civil Society – Possibilities and Pitfalls for Donor Agencies and Northern NGOs. Sida 2004.

Gunnarsson, Maria, *Civil Society Support Models,* Sida 2006.

GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS FOR SIDA GRANTS

The guidelines below apply to all Swedish non-governmental organisations which apply for grants from Sida for projects in developing countries financed by the appropriation for Non-Governmental Organisations. Sida's grants to the programmes of development cooperation of Swedish NGOs are regulated in the following documents:

General conditions for grants from Sida's appropriation for Swedish NGOs

Guidelines for Sida's support to development programmes of Swedish NGOs

Guidelines for Sida's support to development programmes of Swedish NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe

Sida's cooperation agreements with frame organisations including annual sub-agreements.

* Revised conditions and guidelines will be issued in 2006–2007.

All Sida publications can be downloaded from the agency's database at www.sida.se, or ordered directly from Sida's publications department. Tel. 08–698 50 00.

Publications by the Swedish Government and Riksdag can be downloaded from www.regeringen.se.

14 framework organisations

Sida disburses over SEK 1 billion annually to 14 major organisations, known as frame organisations, of which there are two types.

1| Umbrella organisations (marked with an asterisk★), which prepare and pass on funding applications from their member organisations. It is the latter that sign agreements and cooperate with organisations in the South.

2| Organisations that develop and run their own development cooperation programmes and projects and sign agreements directly with cooperation partners in the South.

★ **Forum Syd** [www.forumsyd.se]

Forum Syd represents nearly 200 Swedish organisations. Member organisations vary widely in terms of outlook, orientation and size. Forum Syd channels Sida funding to its member organisations for development projects around the world. The principal aim, common to all projects, is to strengthen civil society as a force for justice and sustainable development in the world.

★ **LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Co-operation**

[www.lotcobistand.org]

LO and TCO are central union organisations with 16 and 18 affiliates respectively. The Secretariat supports the development of independent, democratic, gender-equal trade unions and extends funding for around 250 projects in some 70 countries. LO-TCO members also run a number of global development projects.

★ **Olof Palme International Center** [www.palmecenter.org]

The Swedish labour movement's organisation for international issues and development cooperation. The Center was founded in 1992 by LO, the Swedish Cooperative Union and the Social Democratic Party. Its 29 member organisations are responsible for some 300 projects in 80 countries.

★ **PMU InterLife** [www.pmu.se]

PMU Inter Life channels government funds to the Swedish Pentecostal churches for development cooperation. Priority areas are education, health and medical care.

★ **SHIA – Svenska Handikapporganisationers Internationella Biståndsförening** [www.shia.se]

SHIA is a non-profit organisation. Its 26 members – Swedish organisations of people with disabilities – are active in international development cooperation. SHIA seeks to promote equality and participation for people with disabilities.

★ **Swedish Mission Council** [www.missioncouncil.se]

The Swedish Mission Council channels funds for activities undertaken by 34 member organisations around the world. These include religious communities, missionary organisations and other Christian organisations in Sweden.

Africa Groups of Sweden [www.afrikagruppena.org]

A solidarity organisation with no party-political or religious affiliations and approximately 50 member organisations, Africa Groups is mainly active in countries in southern Africa.

Diakonia [www.diakonia.se]

A Christian aid organisation that promotes democracy, human rights, economic justice and gender equality around the world, Diakonia is the central development body for five Swedish free church communities.

Swedish Cooperative Centre [www.utangranser.se] and [www.sccrosa.org/site]

The development organisation of the Swedish cooperative movement, SCC is actively involved with agricultural, environmental and gender issues in some 20 countries.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation [www.snf.se]

Sweden's largest environmental organisation. With its more than 160,000 members, the society cooperates with more than 50 environmental organisations around the world.

Save the Children Sweden [www.rb.se]

Save the Children's mission is to make the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality for children everywhere. The organisation has 85,000 Swedish members and cooperates with numerous local child rights organisations around the world. It is a member of the international Save the Children Alliance, an umbrella organisation of 29 members active in over 100 countries.

The Church of Sweden [www.svenskakyrkan.se/lutherhjelpen]

The Church of Sweden runs development cooperation activities. It channels assistance through Church of Sweden Aid which focuses on ecologically sustainable development, the right to food, social and economic justice, conflict prevention and peace promotion. The organisation is also involved in international networks dedicated to building opinion and influencing public policy.

UBV [www.ubv.se]

UBV sends volunteers to and runs development projects in Latin America. UBV volunteers work in their own occupational field in a local organisation. The organisation also disseminates information and seeks to build public opinion in Sweden

Red Cross [www.redcross.se]

The International Committee of the Red Cross is a worldwide organisation principally concerned with humanitarian relief operations in disaster and conflict areas. The Swedish Red Cross, which has 280,000 members, has concluded framework agreements with Sida on humanitarian assistance.

SIDA CIVIL SOCIETY CENTER

The Sida Civil Society Center in Härmösand is a resource for NGOs, grassroots organisations, voluntary associations and advocacy groups. Its tasks are to:

- support ideas and methods development
- serve as a meeting place for exchanges of experience, and
- meet the needs of Swedish organisations and their cooperation partners with regard to capacity development and education.

Read more at: [www.sida.se/scsc].

- [Turn over the cover to read about Sida's frame organisations.

Civil society is a powerful force for change – for democracy, human rights, peace and economic development. It is also gaining importance as a global arena. Sida actively seeks to strengthen the freedom and ability of people to organise, and supports organisations and initiatives that promote the interests of the poor.

This publication outlines the support provided by Sida for development cooperation programmes and projects undertaken by Swedish non-governmental organisations. More than 500 Swedish NGOs cooperate with over 2,000 local, regional and global organisations around the world.



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