

Promoting Peace and Security

THROUGH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



The Swedish Policy on Global Development (2003) states that armed conflict is the most serious obstacle to development in many poor countries. Peace is thus a basic prerequisite to creating conditions that enable the poor to improve their lives.

Development cooperation is affected by violent conflicts and situations of insecurity. At the same time, development cooperation can itself have an impact on the conflict. Development cooperation carried out in a conflict situation, but that has been planned and implemented without a conflict perspective, can, in a worst case scenario, do more harm than good.

As a vast majority of Sweden's partner countries are affected by violent conflict, Sida and its partners need to work *in* areas of conflict, through conflict-sensitive interventions, and *on* conflicts themselves by proactively promoting peace and security.

Policy: Sida's Approach to Peace and Security

Sida's new policy, *Promoting Peace and Security through Development Cooperation*, defines Sida's overall approach to peace and security.

The policy identifies three approaches to development cooperation in situations of potential or ongoing violent conflict or insecurity. The first two are relevant when working *in* conflict areas and situations of insecurity.

- 1. Risk awareness:** Sida shall strive to understand and anticipate the effects that a given violent conflict and situation of insecurity could have on development cooperation activities in the conflict region.
- 2. Conflict sensitivity:** Sida shall strive to ensure that development cooperation has no negative impact and thus does not escalate tensions between the parties to a conflict (a "do-no-harm" perspective).

The third approach applies to when working directly *on* situations of conflict and insecurity:

- 3. Promotion of peace and security:** Sida shall explore and make use of opportunities to promote peace and security through the hidden potential of regular development cooperation and through specific projects/programmes.

The policy identifies three main types of interventions promoting peace and security.

1. Promotion of dialogue comprises interventions striving to change attitudes and promote or create conditions for dialogue, negotiation, and peaceful conflict resolution between parties to conflicts. This can be accomplished by, for example, reconciliation, building of capacity for peaceful negotiations concerning land rights, and supporting media programmes to influence public opinion.

2. Promotion of security comprises interventions that primarily address behaviour and that can give individuals and groups affected by violent conflicts a greater degree of protection. Examples of such interventions include civil peace monitoring, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants (DDR), small arms collection, and mine destruction.

3. Promotion of structural stability comprises interventions consciously targeting structural or root causes of violent conflict and insecurity. Such interventions include security system reforms and legislation to control illicit arms trafficking.

Development cooperation intervention can be designed to make use of its hidden potential to promote peace and security, for example:

- Agricultural programmes can be planned also to address land rights disputes;
- Good governance and democracy initiatives can provide minority protection and guarantee the political influence of marginalised groups that might otherwise rebel;
- House or road construction in post-conflict societies can be designed to improve inter-group relations.

Sida gives priority to **early prevention of violent conflicts**, and acknowledges that **local and regional capacities** and initiatives are vital for the promotion of peace and security. In addition, Sida shall strive to act and be perceived as acting **impartially** with respect to the parties involved in a conflict. However, Sida cannot be neutral regarding threats to basic values, such as human rights and gender equality.

Peace and Security in Practice

Sida's methodology for conducting conflict analysis, *Manual for Conducting a Conflict Analysis*, has been developed to provide Sida staff and partners with a practical tool with which to analyse violent conflicts and situations of insecurity. Use of this tool should build better understanding of how development cooperation is affected by – and can affect – potential or ongoing violent conflicts.

The tool is primarily aimed at supporting Sida staff when assessing a conflict analysis included in a project/programme proposal and when preparing for a Strategic Conflict Analysis as part of a Country Co-operation Strategy process.

The tool can be used in relation to situations of submerged tension, rising tension, violent conflict, or post-conflict. It is useful in assessing conflict risks, so that strategies, programmes, and projects can become more conflict sensitive – that is have no negative affect on the conflict dynamics. The tool can also help in finding options for interventions that promote peace and security.

A conflict analysis should complement a poverty analysis and other analyses conducted in the interest of achieving the overall goal of poverty reduction.

For practical guidance on various thematic issues, for example, democratisation, dialogue, security system reform, gender, small arms and light weapons, disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration of ex-combatants, see the Issues Briefs concerning peace and security compiled by OECD-DAC and available at www.oecd.org/dac/conflict.

Sida staff can also access the HelpDesk, where practical advice is given on country-specific and thematic issues.

Guidelines for applications

Application guidelines for programmes promoting peace and security will be released in 2006; for details, see www.sida.se/peaceandsecurity.

Division for Peace and Security in Development Cooperation

Sida's Division for Peace and Security in Development Cooperation (PaS) is responsible for developing policy and methodology. These are formulated to help Sida's interventions become more conflict sensitive and pro-actively promote peace and security. The Division serves as a knowledge and advisory source within the Agency.

The Division collaborates with Sida's thematic and regional departments as well as with Sida's representatives in the field through:

- Giving advice during the country cooperation strategy processes;
- Following-up on sector support, programmes, and specific projects, including in the planning, monitoring, and evaluation phases;
- Building capacity for conflict-sensitive development cooperation and for pro-actively promoting peace and security;
- Commissioning specific thematic studies.

Where do I find more information?

General

- Visit www.sida.se/peaceandsecurity for more information and access to key documents, such as policy papers, the conflict analysis tool, and thematic studies.
- Discover Issues Briefs concerning peace and security at www.oecd.org/dac/conflict
- Learn more about the “do-no-harm” perspective and about conflict sensitivity at www.cdainc.com/dnh.
- Learn more about peace building and its relationship to business, humanitarian aid, gender, security, and post-conflict reconstruction at www.international-alert.org and www.saferworld.co.uk.

Sources for country-based early warning information and the analysis of conflict dynamics can be found at:

- International Crisis Group’s “Crisis Watch” www.crisisweb.org
- FAST International www.swisspeace.org/fast
- Uppsala Conflict Data Base www.pcr.uu.se/database/

Sida staff

- Check the Inside, Sida’s intranet
- Discover the Help Desk function on the Inside, Sida’s intranet

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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