

IN BRIEF...

Promoting peace and security

War and violent conflict are the most serious obstacles to development for many poor countries. Seventy-five per cent of the countries with which Sida works have been scarred by ongoing or recent armed conflict, while in many other countries the outbreak of violence is a very real threat. Sida supports three types of peace and security programme: the promotion of dialogue, the promotion of security, and the promotion of structural stability.

Why does Sweden support the promotion of peace and security?

Despite the fact that many poor countries are suffering in one way or another from civil war, developments are heading in the right direction. Between 1992 and 2003, the number of armed conflicts in the world decreased by 40 per cent; the death toll as a result of conflict also saw a dramatic decline.

Nonetheless, war and violence continue to pose one of the greatest threats to development and poverty reduction, as one precondition of sustainable development is a stable peace.

There is no obvious correlation between poverty and violent conflict. However, civil war almost always has an adverse effect on a country's economy, especially the agricultural sector. It also leads to immense loss of life, through fighting, increased child mortality and a general impairment of public health.

Citizens of post-conflict countries can be troubled by serious insecurity and anxiety. When a government is no longer able to guarantee the safety of its people, violent crimes increase, in

particular those committed against the poor.

For example, from 1980 to 1990, the number of murders in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia rose by between 50 and 100 per cent. Such a situation often leads to withheld investments and stunted economic growth.

Given today's broader concept of security, development cooperation is all the more important to peace and security. In bringing the relationship between poverty and insecurity to the fore, people now talk about "human security", a concept that places the focus onto citizen's rights and needs. From a development perspective, protection and empowerment are two cardinal aspects of human security, the latter term meaning giving people the power to develop their own potential and participate fully in the decision-making process.

From a multi-dimensional poverty perspective, the term 'poverty' refers to the lack not only of material assets but also of power and choices. To a very great extent, then, anti-poverty

measures and efforts to ensure human security overlap.

The Millennium Goals—a joint commitment

In 2000, world leaders agreed on a number of quantifiable goals for halving poverty by 2015. One of the most essential factors in the attainment of these goals is peace. War and conflict cause immense suffering for everyone involved, but often it is the poorest and most vulnerable members of society who are hit the hardest.

What does Sweden do to promote peace and security?

Sweden's global development policy has eight primary components that reflect the many faces of poverty. One of these components is conflict management and security.

Seventy-five per cent of Sweden's partner countries have been scarred by ongoing or recent conflict, while in many other countries the outbreak of civil war is a very real threat. Most Swedish peace and security projects take place in Africa, followed by Latin American and Asia.

All development cooperation affects and is affected by conflict. At worst, development projects can do more harm than good, so all development cooperation must be made sensitive to the conflict situation.

Over the years, those working with development cooperation have come to the realisation that they must work

within and with conflicts rather than try to circumvent them.

To make sure that its development cooperation makes positive contributions to a conflict situation, Sida has proposed three fundamental working philosophies:

- Risk awareness: to understand and anticipate the consequences that violent conflict and insecurity can have on development cooperation in the conflict area.
- Conflict sensitivity: to ensure that development cooperation does not exacerbate a conflict by increasing the tension that exists between the conflict parties.
- Promotion of peace and security: to bring about a change of attitudes and behaviour in the parties of a conflict and to tackle its underlying causes. This includes making sure that the construction of new houses or roads is done in a way that helps improve relations between the parties; involving marginalised groups in the democratisation process; or extending agricultural programmes to disputes over land rights.

Sida supports three types of peace and security projects

Promoting dialogue

The objectives of Sida's dialogue-promoting activities are to change attitudes and to create or improve the conditions for dialogue, negotiation, and peaceful conflict resolution. This includes, for example, activities related to the culture of violence, education, the role of the media, reconciliation, local arbitration, and other such opinion-building or awareness-raising efforts. One concrete example is the support given to the efforts of the Life and Peace Institutet to bring about dialogue and reconciliation at a grass-roots level in a number of African countries. Another is the support given to the UNDP for the implementation of a local project in Liberia designed to promote a sustainable peace through reconciliation and cooperation across social and ethnic boundaries.

Promoting security

Another important area is the changing of behaviour and the provision of better protection for individuals and groups affected by violent conflict. This might

include civil peace monitoring, the dissemination of accurate information and the disarming, demobilisation and reintegration into society of former combatants. It may also be a case of gathering and destroying arms and minesweeping. Actual projects include support for the election process and minesweeping in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sida also supports the efforts of Save the Children to demobilise and rehabilitate former combatants into society in Darfur and Unicef's efforts to improve public knowledge and awareness of mines.

Promoting structural stability

Sida is also supporting projects designed to deal with the causes of war and insecurity, structural or otherwise. This could include initiatives for controlling different kinds of weapon and reforming the security sector.

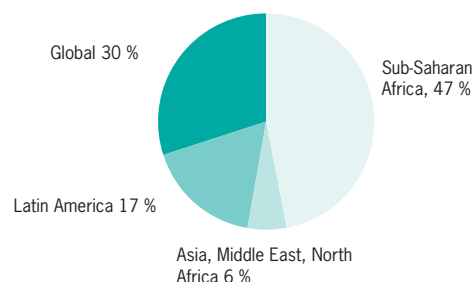
Other programmes can have a more direct impact on peace and security, such as those related to poverty reduction, democratisation, the improvement of the media, good governance, respect for human rights, equality, sustainable natural resource management, prevention of HIV/AIDS and corruption.

The top five recipients of conflict-related support from Sida, 2005

Sudan	205 362 000
Uganda	115 252 000
D.R. Congo	112 480 000
Westbank and Gaza	92 690 000
Pakistan	56 530 000
Other countries and regions	1 294 682 000
Total	1 876 997 000

Source: Sida's annual report 2005

Conflict-related support provided by Sida, by region



Conflict-related support provided by Sida, costs SEK

Civil peace building, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution	63 476 000
Minesweeping for the purposes of development	49 423 000
Preventing the recruitment of children into the military, and the demobilisation, disarming and rehabilitation of child soldiers	18 368 000
UN-managed post-conflict peace building	4 049 000
Rehabilitating demobilised military personnel and reducing the spread of light firearms	4 272 000
Reforming the security sector to improve democratic governance	478 000
Total	140 066 000

Source: Sida's annual report 2005

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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