

IN BRIEF...

Humanitarian Assistance

War, conflicts, drought, floods and epidemics are common in many countries in Eastern and Central Africa. Millions of people have been suffering from increased poverty, homelessness, misery, epidemics and death. The Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi co-ordinates the humanitarian assistance to several countries in the region: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda—as and when—the need arises.

Humanitarian assistance is the second largest item of expenditures for Swedish international development cooperation (with a budget of just over SEK 1 billion) and is mostly allocated to humanitarian programmes. The objective is to alleviate the suffering of people affected by armed conflicts or natural disasters. Humanitarian assistance can, for example, be support for refugees and refugee camps and to internally displaced people. Other sectors are mine actions, education, water and sanitation and food security. Support is channelled through the UN or Swedish and International NGOs.

Burundi

Sida started programmes of development cooperation with Burundi as late as during the election in 1993. The internal conflict during the last years has resulted in sufferings for the population and Sida has therefore chosen to focus its support on humanitarian assistance within areas of health, nutrition, emergency education and agriculture. Special attention is

given to women, child soldiers and people infected with HIV/Aids. Sida is also contributing to the ongoing peace processes.

A few Swedish organisations are active in Burundi, for example, Médecins sans Frontières and PMU Interlife. Other support is mainly channelled via UN organisations such as FAO and UNICEF and to International NGOs.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The lack of medicines, clean and safe water, sanitation, in combination with large movements of people and conflicts, constitute a serious threat. Over three million Congolese are refugees or internally displaced due to the internal conflict. The volcanic eruption in Goma has further exacerbated the situation.

Sweden supports emergency programmes for the most vulnerable people, to relieve the suffering caused by the conflict. If the situation improves, support may be given to the return of refugees and internally displaced per-

sons to their homes. The assistance is channelled through the International Red Cross Committee, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, OCHA, Rädda Barnen, Swedish Mission Council, PMU Interlife and Diakonia.

Kenya

The humanitarian assistance to Kenya varies from year to year since it is based on the actual need, demand and magnitude of the specific crises situation.

Somalia

A country strategy for Somalia gives the priority to health, education, water and sanitation, good governance, human rights and democracy and demining. Organisations that implement the programmes are, for example, UNICEF, OCHA, UNDP, ICRC, Diakonia and the Danish Demining Group.

Sudan

Recurrent drought, floods and ongoing conflicts make the situation in Sudan extremely complicated and the humanitarian organisations have difficulties in working freely in the country.

Sweden has a strategy for humanitarian assistance, and has given the priorities to contributions in the fields of health, water and sanitation, education, food security and dissemination of human principles. Programmes are being implemented by, among others, UNICEF, FAO, ICRC,

Rädda Barnen, Médécins sans Frontières and PMU Interlife.

The Great Lakes Region

Burundi, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo are part of the Great Lakes Region, an area that has been devastated by conflicts in recent years. Here the aim of the humanitarian assistance and the development cooperation is to alleviate effects of the conflicts and the achievement of stability and peace.

Sida's support is given, for example, to contribute to the protection of vulnerable women and children, meet basic needs of war-affected populations, to rehabilitate and reintegrate refugees and former soldiers to life in peace.

In the long term, Sweden wants to contribute to the development of democratic states that respect the human rights of all their citizens. Basic social services—particularly education and health—promote development of this type, as do comprehensive legal systems and good governance.

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BASIC FACTS

Burundi:

30 million SEK per year
270 million KES per year

Democratic Republic of Congo:

90 million SEK per year
810 million KES per year

Republic of Congo:

15 million SEK per year
135 million KES per year

Somalia.

120 million SEK 2003-2004
1080 million KES per year

Sudan:

70 million SEK per year
630 million KES per year

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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