



IN BRIEF...

Social sector and culture

The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina left behind a country with great social problems, thousands of traumatised people, destroyed cultural heritage, broken relations with the world outside, damaged resources for a rich cultural life and a severe braindrain.

Immediately after the war Sweden, through Sida, started to contribute to the rehabilitation of human as well as physical resources.

Thus, support to traumatised people and war victims started in 1997. It later turned into the promotion of a mental health reform with focus on community psychiatry. This was successfully finalised in 2004,

thanks to the East Europe Committee of the Swedish Health Care Community. Their work also included support to the establishment of a modern social service, which is still ongoing.

Furthermore, in 1996 Sida initiated a project to restore some cultural heritage objects, destroyed during the war, in co-operation with national and local institutions.

Another area, which had suffered great losses in the war, was the musical life of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The need for international contacts was great, as well as for training, instrument repair, new equipment and strengthening of music schools. The Sida-support to the co-operation between the Royal College of Music in Stockholm and the Music Academy in Sarajevo started in 1997.

Ongoing projects:

- The Department for Social Work, Stockholm University, is engaged in the training of social workers. This includes promoting new methods and attitudes, trying to break the isolation between the entities and between Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries through networking, and supporting the establishment of a department of Social Work at Banja Luka where a four-year education is now running.
- The Swedish Institute in Stockholm is responsible for cultural exchange with Sweden, which gives cultural workers from different institutions a possibility to meet, exchange experiences and carry out common activities, in order to stimulate creativity and cultural diversity.
- The Foundation Cultural Heritage without Borders, CHwB, works with preservation of cultural heritage, when possible using the same material and techniques as



The old mosque in Maglaj is one of many Bosnian buildings of great cultural value that has been restored with assistance from the Swedish organisation Cultural Heritage without Borders.

has originally been employed, and supports cultural institutions with training activities. In Maglaj, CHwB has restored the beautiful 17th century mosque and a little guesthouse, “konak”. In Sarajevo the organisation has restored parts of the National Museum and helps develop the museum work. Other examples are the conservation of the mediaeval church in Zavala and of a few traditional houses in Jajce.

- The Royal College of Music in Stockholm is strengthening the

Music Academy in Sarajevo and other music schools. It also arranges regional seminars in Dubrovnik and has established a network among all music academies of the region. The goals are to restore the higher music education to a normal European standard and strengthen the preparatory music education in the country.

- Sida contributes to the fight against HIV/AIDS through UNICEF’s regional project “The Right To Know” for young people and through the international

NGO Project Hope, whose regional program supports local NGO’s and train primary health care providers.

Future plans:

Support to the social sector will increase during the coming few years. Sida will however no longer be active in the health sector with the exception of projects fighting HIV/AIDS. The co-operation on culture will continue on a limited scale, being more focused on regional projects.

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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