



IN BRIEF...

Human rights and democracy

Proper standards for human rights and democracy are of great importance for the establishment of a democratic state. The activities within this area constitute a vital part of the Swedish programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and are expected to remain an important priority in the foreseeable future.

Sida has channelled grants through Swedish and international organisations to further democracy and strengthen human rights in Bosnia

and Herzegovina (BiH) since 1994. Civil society in BiH has received extensive support. The support has been very varied and covered many

areas. Key areas for Swedish support have included and continue to include the development of independent media, programs in support of women and gender equality, youth projects and democracy training. The Swedish Helsinki Committee, Olof Palme International Centre and Kvinna till Kvinna support local initiatives to further democracy.

Ongoing projects and programs

- Swedish Helsinki Committee enjoys a framework agreement for South Eastern Europe primarily aimed at strengthening freedom of expression, secure minority rights (not only ethnic minorities) and promote the rule of law.
- Kvinna till Kvinna – Framework agreement for South Eastern Europe including support to women's organisations.
- Olof Palme International Centre – Framework agreement for South Eastern Europe aiming at strengthening democracy and human rights in general.
- Regional Programme of Assistance for the Protection, Return and Reintegration of Trafficked Women and Children in Western Balkans implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Support to Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), regional programme for on-the-job training of local journalists and production



Women come together in a women's center in Tuzla run with support from the Swedish organisation Kvinna till Kvinna (Woman to Woman) and Sida.

of reports on the development in the region.

- Core support to the Media Task Force of the Stability Pact (based in Amsterdam) for the task of coordinating efforts in the field of media as well as assisting the implementation of the newly-adopted Media Code.
- Support to the Transitions On-Line, Balkan Reconstruction Report regional programme, similar to the IWPR programme with journalist training and background reporting.
- The Media Development Loan Fund provides credits to media enterprises in the region. Their Media Training Centre offers training which includes media

management and leadership.

- Support to the Ombudsman Institution in the Federation of BiH regarding the running costs of the Field Office in Velika Kladuša.
- Support to the International Commission on Missing Persons for their work with identifying exhumed bodies using DNA analysis.
- The work with Proni Institute for Social Education regarding youth leadership training was temporarily put on hold during autumn 2003 pending a restructuring of the organisation.
- Support to the Balkan Children and Youth Foundation for their work with local youth organisations, including identifying best practices in youth work.

Future plans

The growth and development of civil society is crucial to the future development of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sweden will continue to support local media, however mainly in the form of credits instead of direct support. Sweden will expand its present credit facilities. Measures to combat trafficking in human beings will continue to have a high priority, albeit increasingly concentrating on prevention and information. Projects aiming at preventing child abuse, violence in the home and promoting participation of children and young people in the life of the community will be given priority.

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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