

# Sida's Portfolio within Development Cooperation in Education and ICT4D

Sida's development cooperation in the field of Education and Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) is guided by The Education For All (EFA) goals, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 2 and MDG 3), as well as the Paris Agenda on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Swedish Policy for Global Development.

During 2008 Sida disbursed a sum of SEK 1 003 906 549 in support of education and ICT4D. This is an increase by approximately SEK 250 000 000 compared to 2007.

## Thematic Focus Areas

Education, formal and non-formal, provides opportunities for life-long learning that generates knowledge and skills. Education is also essential for the spreading of democratic values and the development of democratic cultures. A challenge is how different stakeholders can create new spaces for knowledge creation. The development cooperation within education strives towards a results-focused education sector development programme which is participatory and transparent and that offers equal opportunities for all learners. The desired impact is a democratic knowledge society where also people living in poverty have the opportunity to improve their living conditions.

Sida focuses on four focus thematic areas in dialogue with different actors in international development cooperation within the education sector:

### Education for Democracy and Human Rights

The right *to* education is fairly uncontroversial, while there is less consensus around rights *in* and *through* education. Sida emphasises all three aspects, but attempts to put greater focus on the latter two in dialogue, focusing on the potential role of education in democratic and human development. The learners should have access to educational opportunities and knowledge that allow them to learn about human rights, practice democracy and to develop the knowledge, skills and values needed to take part in and shape democratic processes. More than 90% of Sida's contributions in the field of education have an objective related to Democracy and Human Rights.

### Inclusive Education

Inclusive education focuses on quality education for all with special emphasis on removing barriers to participation and learning for girls and women, learners with disabilities, and out-of school children and adults discriminated against on other grounds. Inclusive education aims at developing educational systems that give all learners possibilities to partici-

pate, learn and develop. Removing barriers to learning and changing attitudes and values that exclude certain groups is essential to achieve the EFA and MDG goals.

### Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

The objective of ESD is for the learners to develop knowledge, skills and values that enable them to contribute to a sustainable society. Focus is placed on the interaction between social, economic and ecological spheres and systems. Promoting environmental issues in curricula, paying attention to school environments, and integrating ESD in the training of decision-makers, school managers and teachers are issues given special emphasis in the planning, implementation and follow-up of education sector programmes. Approximately 70% of Sida's contributions in the field of education have an objective related to Environment.

### Information and Communication Technology for Education (ICT4E)

ICT, such as the Internet and mobile phones, are powerful tools making information and knowledge available to increasing numbers of people around the world. There is great demand in many developing countries for the use of ICT both in the formal education sector and non-formal education and training. Interactive technology can enable new dynamic ways of teaching and flexible learning, and ICT can be used as a tool for inclusive education as well as to increase access to knowledge and information. It is important to build capacity and develop understanding concerning appropriate technologies for various educational environments to yield results in support of rights to, in and through education.

### Sida's Support To The Education Sector

A current process to concentrate Sida's portfolio in the education sector has resulted in fewer contributions; 108 contributions in 2008 compared to 123 in 2007 and 144 in 2006.

At the same time, Sida's total financial support to primary education has expanded over the last few years, bilaterally and through engagement in global initiatives. Post-primary and higher education are also important from a holistic perspective on education.

Sida emphasises the importance of aid effectiveness and focuses on development of inclusive and sustainable education systems. This is done in an active dialogue with partners within the education sector. Capacity building related to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been a part of Sida's support in the field of education, albeit to a limited extent in the period presented here.

Within non-formal education Sida also supports non-governmental organisations and international training programmes covering education for sustainable development as well as child rights in education.

Sida's support in the field of education has an emphasis on bilateral contributions. Nevertheless, support to global programmes is also important. The global programmes include support to UN organisations such as UNESCO, UNICEF and support to The Fast Track Initiative.

Emphasis is given to General Budget Support, Sector Budget Support and pool funding arrangements with other donors. Sida also supports countries in conflict and post-

conflict with appropriate modalities. Non-governmental organisations as well as the private sector play a significant role in education in all countries.

Sida is involved in bilateral development cooperation in the education sector with 10–15 countries. We have specialist staff working with contributions and dialogue in education in almost 10 countries.

The bilateral portfolio consists mainly of development cooperation with long-term cooperation countries and conflict and post-conflict countries. The support to Afghanistan, a country in conflict/post-conflict, is Sida's largest in the field of education to a specific country. Long-term development cooperation is mainly focusing on Tanzania, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Bolivia. Sida also has a delegated cooperation (previously known as 'silent partnership') with the Netherlands in Burkina Faso and Mali.<sup>1</sup>

Sida is phasing out traditional development cooperation in a number of countries, e.g. Laos, Honduras, South Africa and Namibia. In some of these countries the intention is that development cooperation shall become partner-driven. During recent decades, Sida has also supported the education sector through regional organisations in Africa, but this form of development cooperation is currently being phased out.

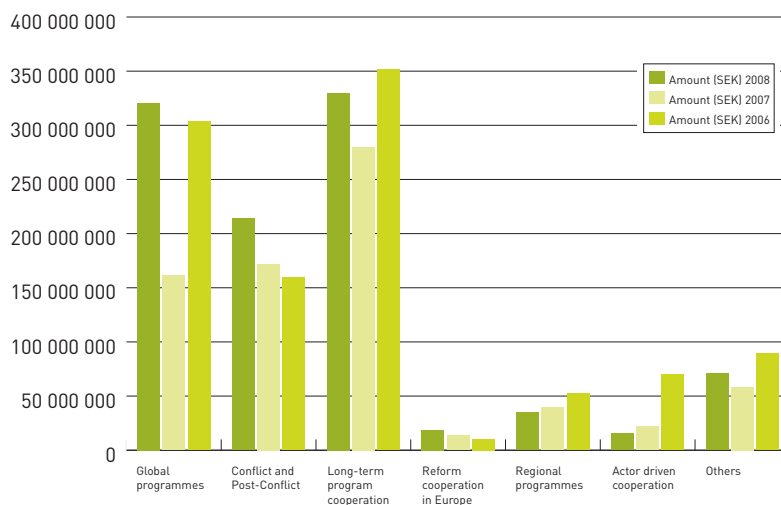
1. Countries where Sweden gives budget support are not included in the statistics.

## Sida's support to sub-sectors

- Primary Education
- Post-primary Education and Higher Education
- Education Systems
- Information and communication technology
- Other Support



## Sida's support by category



## Highlights 2009

### THE KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

Sida is placing stronger emphasis on local and global processes aiming at the creation of Knowledge societies and Knowledge based economies in developing countries. Sida is at present exploring the possibilities to work more strategically with concepts such as knowledge society, lifelong learning, innovation, Research and Development (R&D), and information and communication technologies.

### FAST TRACK INITIATIVE (FTI)

The Education for All – Fast Track Initiative was launched as a global partnership between donor and developing countries to ensure accelerated progress towards the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. Sida works closely with the FTI partnership and has committed SEK 400 000 000 during 2008–2011.

For more information about Sida's work with Knowledge, Education and ICT please write to [david.wiking@sida.se](mailto:david.wiking@sida.se) or visit us at [www.sida.se](http://www.sida.se).