

Portfolio overview

Sida's support to AsDB 2010*

In 2010, Sida contributed to 8 projects and programmes co-funded with the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), to a total amount of MSEK 117.5 (disbursed).

At present there are 10 agreements between Sida and the AsDB amounting MSEK 828. 89 % of the agreed amount has been disbursed i.e. MSEK 736 have been disbursed and remaining commitments amount to MSEK 93.

Sida's support to AsDB's regional projects is guided by the Swedish Regional Strategy for Asia, while contributions at country level are guided by Sweden's country cooperation strategies. Of the disbursed amount in 2010 to AsDB operations, 58 % were in support of Bangladesh and the remaining 42 % in support of Regional cooperation. The main sectors to receive support over the years have been infrastructure, health, education and environment.

In 2010, Sweden's development cooperation to Asia for the period 2010–2015 was agreed. The contribution to Asian Development Bank (AsDB) will focus on transboundary issues such as gender equality, environment, climate and HIV and AIDS.

The annual disbursements to AsDB varied considerably over the period 2004–2010, with the highest disbursement in 2009 and the only time it reached above MSEK 200. The number of contributions was higher in 2005 than in any other year of the

Contributions from Sida in support of AsDB's programmes are often entitled "multibi" (multi-bilateral aid). These should be distinguished from non-earmarked or core contributions to the regular budget of multilateral institutions, which are called "multilateral aid". The latter type of support is disbursed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or another ministry, and only in exceptional cases by Sida.

Mandate and strategic priorities

AsDB is an international development finance institution whose mission is to help its developing member countries in Asia and the Pacific to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Since 1999 poverty reduction has been AsDB's overarching goal and "An Asia and Pacific free of poverty" the corporate vision.

AsDB's Long-Term Strategic framework for 2008–2020 outlines three complementary strategic agendas: (1) inclusive economic growth; (2) environmentally sustainable

growth, and (3) regional integration. The broad development agendas include among other things support to education, essential public services and gender equality, environmental management and initiatives for mitigating and adapting to climate change, and HIV/AIDS. The Asian Development Fund (ADF) is AsDB's major instrument of concessional financing, offering grants and loans at very low interest rates to the poorest countries in the region. It is funded by AsDB's donor member countries through periodic replenishments.

* The statistics refer to all contributions up until 31 dec 2010. Returning funds have been excluded.

period but has remained around 10 over the period – except for in the beginning (Table 1).

The portfolio can be seen to focus its support to two major recipients in the last two years, Bangladesh and Regional Asia. The support to Bangladesh is mainly to an education program while the support through the Regional Asia allocation seeks to improve the capacity of countries and partners to address regional transboundary challenges or problems shared by several countries and where solutions can be sought in regional cooperation. Naturally many individual countries are benefitting from this support, including those in the list below, and others.

The largest individual Sida disbursements in 2010 were to the Education Sector Programme in Bangladesh (MSEK 45), to the regional HIV/AIDS Fund (MSEK 20), the regional Core Environment Programme (MSEK 16) and to the Clean Energy Fund (MSEK 12).

Regarding the sectorial distribution of disbursements between 2005 and 2010, the relative weight of Sida's contributions to different sectors has varied somewhat over the period, but the by far most supported sector has been Sustainable Infrastructure (see Table 3).

Since 2005, the Infrastructure sector has received the largest share of Swedish disbursements, which include support to both regional and bilateral projects, often with energy-related and environmental content. In 2010, 23 percent of disbursements went to infrastructure programmes and projects. AsDB is one of few actors that work with regional approach in some areas, like infrastructure, and therefore their operations align well with the priorities of the Swedish Regional Strategy for Asia.

Table 1: Sida annual disbursements 2005–2010

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of contributions	11	5	9	9	10	8
Total amount (MSEK)	188.5	109.1	71.7	152.4	223.4	117.5

Table 2: Sida annual disbursements 2005–2010 by country/regional programmes (percentage of total amount per year)

Destination/Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bangladesh	67	100	10	28	17	42
Sri Lanka	2	0	0	13	0	0
Tajikistan	0	0	6	0	0	0
Cambodia	3	0	0	0	0	0
Asia, regional	28	0	84	59	83	58
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 3: Sida annual disbursements 2005–2010, by sector (percentage of total amount per year)

Sida main sector	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Health	27	7	10	21	33	21
Education	28	34	–	23	23	38
Research	–	–	–	–	1	–
Democracy, HR & Gender Equality	3	–	6	–	–	–
Sustainable Infrastructure & Services	37	59	46	41	26	23
Market Development	2	–	–	–	–	–
Environment	–	–	38	16	13	18
Other	3	–	–	–	4	–
Total (percentage)	100	100	100	100	100	100

Education is the second-largest sector over time and largest sector in 2010 with a share of 38 % of total disbursements, and Health is the third largest supported sector since 2005. Education and health are not priority sectors in the Swedish Regional Strategy for Asia but form a central part of Sweden's country strategy in Bangladesh, where AsDB is a partner in these sector programmes.

Since 2007 support to natural resources and environment has received a substantial share and is the fourth biggest sector over time reflecting a priority in the Swedish Regional Strategy for Asia.

