

Sida's Portfolio within Democracy and Human Rights 2008-2010

Democracy and human rights is one of three thematic priorities in Swedish development cooperation. The support has been divided in three main categories – Human Rights, The Institutions and Procedures of Democracy and the Rule of Law, and Actors for Democratisation including Civil Society totaling SEK 4 187 million in 2010. This is a slight decrease in volume of SEK 294 million but an increase in share from 24% to 27% of Sida's total support compared to 2009.

Sida's point of departure is that all rights are equally important, universal, indivisible and mutually dependent of each other. The definition of democratic governance includes efforts to increase the influence and power of people living in poverty through democratic processes that respect participation, non-discrimination, equal rights, transparency and accountability. Gender equality is an integrated aspect of, and an objective in itself within, democratic governance. The Policy for Democratic Development and Human Rights in Swedish Development Cooperation, 2010–2014 has chosen three focus areas; civil and political rights, the institutions and procedures of democracy and the rule of law, and actors for democratisation.

The Institutions and Procedures of Democracy and the Rule of Law

In 2010, the total cost for Sida's portfolio within democratic institutions and procedures of democracy and the rule of law amounted to SEK 1 233 Million.

Sida provides substantial support to public administration, parliamentary development and local democracy. The main objective is to contribute to democratic governance by supporting open, transparent, accountable and effective political institutions and public administration re-

sponsive to the needs and rights of women, men, girls and boys living in poverty, on central, regional and local levels. Sida also supports public administration within specific sectors such as agriculture, health and education.

Rule of law and equal access to justice for all are aspects of democratization. Examples of Sida contributions in this area are support to transitional justice initiatives, legal protection and legal awareness, specialized police for gender based violence, and system-wide support to all links in the chain of justice.

Support to electoral processes has played an important role in building democracy in many countries. Sida aims at promoting free and fair elections and prevention of irregularities through support to a range of components. They include relevant law reforms, national electoral commissions, voter education, media in elections, domestic and international election observation, political party system development, and management of electoral disputes.

Human Rights

The human rights part of the total sector is broader than the focus area civil and political rights in the policy.

Chart 1: Total costs Democracy and human rights. Includes contributions above SEK 1 million

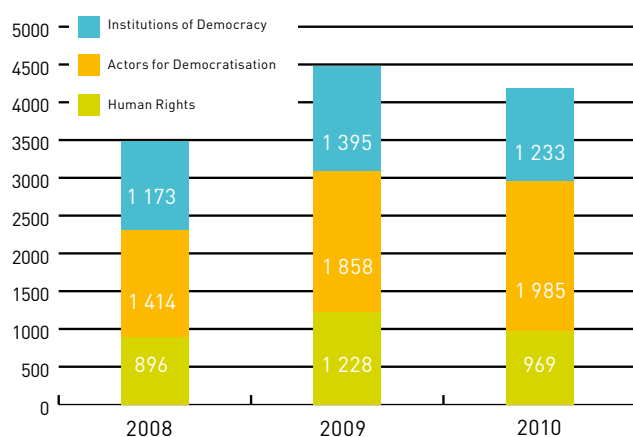
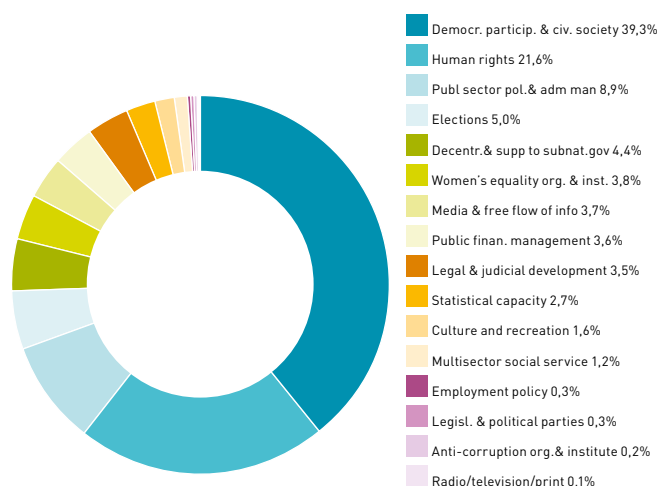


Chart 2: Sectors in Sida's democracy and human rights portfolio. Includes contributions above SEK 1 million



Sida cooperates with different kind of actors working for the protection and fulfilment of gender equality and human rights. As well as supporting the strengthening of the international legal framework and the human rights system as such, Sida works closely with civil society organisations. The total volume of support reached SEK 969 million in 2010.

National human rights institutions, public defenders' offices and global human rights organisations play key roles in strengthening the respect and fulfillment of human rights and the reporting of violations in partner countries and are important recipients of Sida support.

The support to children's rights includes the strengthening of national institutions, revision of laws, implementation of national plans and systems for child protection, promotion of youth and child participation as well as advocacy and campaigning. UNICEF, international NGOs, national civil society and authorities are among key partners.

Sida's support to persons with disabilities goes through civil society organisations in Sweden, globally and in partner countries that work with advocacy, report on human rights violations and develop methods and tools for better inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The work on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons' rights at global, regional and national levels is mainly directed towards civil society organisations engaging in advocacy work and capacity building.

Support to media encompasses access to information, legal frameworks, strengthening of professional organisations, training in journalism and management, support to media loan funds etc. Sida also finances international freedom of expression organisations, for example those that alert the international community if a journalist suffers a human rights violation. Catalytic support is also channelled through the Government's special initiative for democratisation and freedom of expression.

Actors for Democratisation including Civil Society

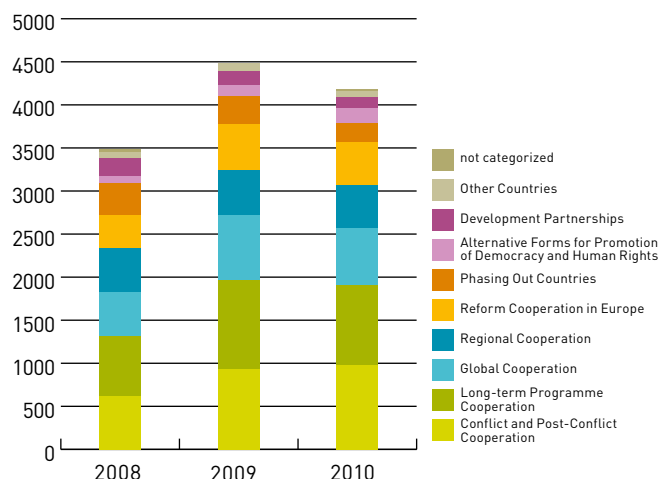
A considerable proportion of Sida's support is directed to civil society and includes funds to 15 Swedish NGOs that in turn support over 1 700 civil society organisations working across the globe. The goal for the support is to promote

the development of a vibrant and democratic civil society and strengthen democratic participation in partner countries. With an aim to support a democratic culture, support to political party systems, women's rights organisations, media and anti-corruption organisations and institutes are also important components of this focus area. In 2010, a total amount of SEK 1 985 million had a direct focus on actors for democratisation including civil society.

Geographical distribution

Chart 3 shows distribution per country category as share of total costs. Conflict and Post-Conflict Cooperation is the category with the largest share of support, which means it has passed Long Term Programme Cooperation as the largest country category, increasing its share from 18% to 23% in 2008–2010. It is followed by Long Term Programme Cooperation which shows an increase from 20% to 22% over the same period. On the increase are also Global Cooperation (15% to 16%), Alternative Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights (3% to 4%) and Reform Cooperation in Europe (11% to 12%), while Regional Cooperation (14% to 12%) and Development Partnerships (6% to 3%) are decreasing. Cooperation that falls outside these categories is down from 13% to 8%.

Chart 3: Country category distribution. Includes contributions above SEK 1 million



Highlights 2010 and 2011

- A mapping and a guide to equal access to justice programmes have been developed and several methods development projects are in progress in the areas of public administration for the poor, local democracy, power analysis and budget analysis. The general aim is to consolidate Sida's experiences within these areas, advance staff competence and provide concrete methodology support to the field.
- Sida is preparing a results report on democracy and human rights to be submitted to the government early 2012.
- The development of Sida's web based support for staff and partners on how to integrate a human rights based approach to development continues and will be broadened to include more countries and themes.
- In human rights, Sida continues to work with its high profile areas. Dialogue briefs on children's rights, freedom of expression, rights of LGBT persons and disability as a human rights issue, have been developed. A How to note on how to integrate a human rights based approach in programme based approaches has also been developed, all these with the aim to support staff and partners by providing concrete methodological support.
- A mapping of Sida's child protection contributions and an external evaluation of Sida's work with children's rights have been finalized.
- Continued dialogue with partners and other stakeholders on ways to strengthen the support to exile media and opportunities for increased investments in media development.