

Portfolio overview

Sida's support to UN-Habitat*

Environment/climate change is a thematic priority in Swedish development Cooperation. In 2010, Sida contributed to three projects and programmes co-funded with United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), to a total amount of MSEK 32 (disbursed). Sweden's annual disbursements show considerable variations from year to year in terms of both volume and destination. Africa is the region that has received the most support in the period 2005–2010. Sida's support to strengthening UN-Habitat's strategic capacity and the normative work through global programmes accounted for about half of Sida's disbursements in 2010. In 2010, Sweden's core support to UN-Habitat was MSEK 11.

The level of disbursements shows considerable annual fluctuations over the period 2005–2010 (Table 1). One explanation for this is that disbursements made in one specific year are regulat-

ed by a multi-year agreement and thus continue to be used by UN-Habitat for several years. Another explanation is that Sida supports post-disaster and conflict work through UN-Habitat

Contributions from Sida in support of UN-Habitat'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.

Table 1: Sida annual disbursements 2005–2010

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of contributions	7	10	11	7	6	3
Total amount (MSEK)	34.2	84.6	100.9	39.5	48.3	32.0

Mandate and strategic priorities

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme – UN-Habitat – is the main global actor in the field of urban development. It has the unique mandate to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It is the only agency mandated by the UN General Assembly to work directly with sustainable urbanisation. UN-Habitat is guided by the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MITSIP) for 2008–2013.

In the last 10 years Sweden has been a major donor to UN-Habitat, especially providing some unearmarked funds, and has developed a relationship with the organisation that is valued beyond its financial contribution. Sida is currently negotiating UN-Habitat's first programme-based approach to cooperation through which all existing Swedish agreements funded by the allocation for Global Development Programmes would be incorporated into one single agreement. Such an arrangement would give UN-Habitat more flexibility to achieve its development objectives.

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

and the need for normative support to such interventions is unpredictable and varies depending on needs. In 2009 a Program Cooperation Agreement was signed for 2009–2011 for the implementation of UN-Habitat's strategy Medium-Term Strategic Implementation Plan (2008–2013). The agreement will be financed with MSEK 75 from the global allocation over 3 years to allow for a more systematic, holistic and efficient relation with UN-Habitat. This agreement is specifically tied to the implementation of following focus areas:

- Focus area 2: Promotion of participatory planning, management and governance;
- Focus area 3: Promotion of pro-poor land and housing; and
- Focus area 6: Excellence in Management

Sida's support is shared between the strengthening of UN-Habitat's strategic capacity, the normative work and attention to reducing urban poverty in different parts of the world (Table 2). UN-Habitat's global mandate and focus on normative development is reflected in the rather high share of support to global programmes, and this share is expected to grow with the phasing out of disbursements in Africa. UN-Habitat has a strong focus on Africa. However, in Sweden's Regional Policy for Africa, adopted in 2008, urban development is not a priority.

Table 2: Sida annual disbursements 2005–2010 by region (percentage of total amount per year)

Region/year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Africa	49	23	42	38	8	1
Asia	–	25	20	18	–	–
Europe	27	15	6	20	31	46.0
Global	24	37	32	24	61	52.0
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	13	–	–	–	–	–
Humanitarian aid	–	0	15	–	–	–
Sustainable Infrastructure & Services	76	99	80	98	98	100
Other	11	–	5	2	2	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

This makes it impossible for Sida to maintain support to UN-Habitat's regional programme for Africa.

Sida's portfolio currently reflects UN-Habitat's broad mandate to work with urban development (Table 3). The distribution of the portfolio across different sectors is less clear, since urban development involves a multi-sectorial approach which makes sector classification arbitrary. In 2010 almost 50 % of total allocation was disbursed to Kosovo for reconstruction, relief and rehabilitation. A small percentage of disbursements each year is classified as "Other" sector, and includes inter alia the financing of three Swedish

Junior Professional Officers (JPOs).

UN Habitat had one Swedish-funded JPO in 2010. The aim of the JPO programme at UN-Habitat is to increase the number of qualified Swedish staff there in areas of strategic relevance to the Swedish support, thus creating synergies within the Swedish support. A second objective is to build a well-trained Swedish resource base for international development cooperation.

In October 2010, a new executive director, Dr Joan Clos, commenced his assignment at UN-Habitat. He has gradually initiated a reform process in terms of organization, Result Based Management (RBM), governance, etc.