

Portfolio overview

Sida's support to OCHA 2010*

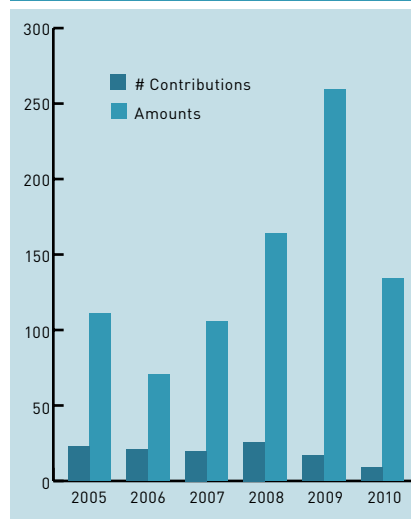
In 2010, Sida made 9 contributions to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to a total amount of MSEK 143 (disbursed), this includes support to OCHA's Field Offices humanitarian coordination activities and support to the OCHA-managed Emergency Humanitarian Funds (6). As OCHA is purely a humanitarian organization, all contributions are based on an assessment of humanitarian needs in protracted and emergency crises settings. OCHA in Africa received MSEK 92.7 of total support in 2010, followed by Asia where OCHA received MSEK 17.7. Sida's funding to OCHA in 2010 was mostly allocated in the framework of Sida's support to OCHA field coordination 2010-2013 (MSEK 75) and to Ethiopia's Humanitarian Response Fund (MSEK 30). OCHA's activities fall exclusively within the sector of Humanitarian assistance. In recent years, Sida's support to OCHA has increased substantially and the contribution portfolio reflects Sweden's policies and priorities for humanitarian aid, in compliance with the Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. With few exceptions, Sweden provides support to all consolidated appeals (18 supported out of 22 emergency settings in 2010) and systematically supports coordination for delivering assistance within those appeals. The increase in support indicates a growing demand for humanitarian aid and coordination, a trend which is expected to continue. In 2010, Sweden's core support to OCHA was MSEK 90, bringing the total combined Swedish support to MSEK 233, making Sweden OCHA's largest donor. In 2009, as for 2010, all support to OCHA in the context of CAPs (Consolidated Appeal Process) was regrouped in a single frame agreement: this reduces the number of contributions done (9) to OCHA during the year.

In the past four years the number of interventions had been fairly stable, at between 21 and 26 interventions per year (2005-2008) but in 2010 there were only 9 interventions, reflecting Sida's effort to increase effectiveness of its grant management. All support to OCHA in CAP contexts were regrouped into one single contribution and agreement in order to

enhance the effectiveness of Sweden's follow up. The average length of agreements, approximately 11.2 months, remained roughly the same. Sweden has agreed upon in 2010 supporting OCHA's field coordination along its Strategic Framework 2010-2013 with MSEK 75, 80 and twice 90 for each respective year. Sweden is therefore shifting from

Contributions from Sida in support of OCHA's activities are often entitled "multibi" (multi-bilateral aid). It should be distinguished from non-earmarked or core contributions to the regular budget of multilateral institutions, entitled "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



short-term agreements with OCHA to a four-year frame agreement partnership that will allow more predictability and flexibility. This shift is based on Sweden's assessment that predictable disasters in the coming years will require a strong and stable coordination capacity for humanitarian action.

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

Table 2: Sida annual disbursements 2004-2010 by region (percentage of total amount per year)

Region/year	2004	2006	2008	2009	2010
Sub-Saharan Africa	21	69	55	53	65
Latin America & Caribbean	21	6	11	2	14
Asia/Middle East & North Africa	11	19	27	42	20
Europe	0	3	4	0	0
Global	47	3	3	3	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Sida's support to OCHA by region

Two thirds of Sida's support (65%) goes to Africa in response to humanitarian crises caused by complex emergencies or natural disasters. (Table 2) This is clearly in line with Sweden's increased focus on Africa. The second largest recipient that received 14% of Sida's contributions to OCHA are Latin / Central America and Caribbean which have been particularly hard hit by natural disasters in recent years; 12 percent of total disbursements in 2010 is Asia; and 7% in the Middle East. Global thematic support (only

Field Coordination Support Services: United Nations Disaster Assessment and Koordination UNDAC, was supported by Sida in 2010) has decreased over the period and was down to 1% in 2010. This was mainly due to severe lack of human resources during 2010 at Sida's Unit for Humanitarian Assistance to process applications for global programmes of OCHA, such as IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Network), ProCap (Protection Capacities Stand-By Project) and GenCap (Gender Capacities Stand-by Project).

Mandate and strategic priorities

Humanitarian aid has grown substantially in the last decade and with it the number of humanitarian actors. OCHA was created in response to growing demands for humanitarian coordination and the need to improve the overall effectiveness of the United Nations humanitarian operations in the field. OCHA is a department of the UN Secretariat.

OCHA's core mandate is to mobilise and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to

alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies, advocate for the rights of people in need, promote preparedness and prevention, and facilitate sustainable solutions. OCHA has a well-calibrated field presence.

OCHA is relevant to Sweden's humanitarian objectives and an indispensable actor in the international humanitarian system. It should be noted that it is not a development organisation but a purely humanitarian organisation which should retain a strict humanitarian focus.

Table 3: Sida disbursements in 2010 by sector, number of contributions and destination

Sida main sector	Percentage of amount	No. of contributions	Largest recipients (MSEK)
Humanitarian assistance	99	8	Field coordination supported in 18 countries and 6 sub-regions (75) Ethiopia HRF (30) Somalia ERF (10) Yemen ERF (7)
Global	1	1	FCSS (2)
	100	9	

¹ Sudan, DR Congo, Central African Republic and Somalia.

² Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Niger occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Yemen, Zimbabwe

³ Regional Office - Latin America & Caribbean (Panama); Regional Office for Western and Central Africa (Dakar); Regional Office for Southern Africa (Johannesburg); Regional Office-Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia (Cairo); Sub Regional Office Almaty; Sub Regional Office Nairobi

All Sida support to OCHA's activities is based on assessments of humanitarian needs. Not surprisingly given OCHA's humanitarian mandate, the list of major recipient countries in 2010 correspond to those that were hardest hit by natural disasters and complex emergencies. The majority of recipients were in Africa and Asia. Out of OCHA's 16 Emergency Response Funds (ERFs or HRF), Sida supported 7 of them in 2010: Ethiopia (MSEK 30), Uganda (MSEK 2.5), Yemen (MSEK 7), Indonesia (MSEK 5), Somalia MSEK 10), Haiti (MSEK 6), Colombia (MSEK 3). OCHA manages as well Common Humanitarian Funds¹ (CHFs or "Pooled Funds") through which Sida support are channeled to other implementing partners. These are often other UN agencies or NGO's. The most important Sida contribution in 2010 to a Common Humanitarian Fund was done for supporting partners in DR Congo.

Sida's support to OCHA by sector

A small percentage of disbursements each year is classified as "Other" sector, which includes inter alia the financing of one Swedish Junior Professional Officer (JPOs) to OCHA. The aim of the JPO programme is to increase the number of qualified Swedish staff at multilateral organisations in areas of strategic relevance to Sweden. A second objective is to build a well-trained Swedish resource base for international development cooperation.

Regarding the sectorial distribution of the OCHA portfolio, nearly all of the 9 active contributions in 2010, were in the Humanitarian assistance sector. The disbursements went to 18 countries² and 6 sub-region³. The share of disbursements to the sector has been stable over the years and amounted to around 99 percent of total annual disbursements in 2010.

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's overall relations with OCHA please contact focal point francois.landiech@sida.se

