

Sida's support to the UNHCR 2010*

In 2010, Sida made fourteen contributions to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to a total amount of MSEK 166.1 (disbursed). They were made in response to appeals for support in emergency situations to protect and assist refugees, internally displaced persons (IDP) and to find durable solutions to refugee and IDP displacement situations. Contributions reflect the hot spots of violent conflicts and humanitarian crises. In 2010, Afghanistan, Chad, Iraq and Pakistan were major recipients. The volume of support to different regions varies from year to year, in line with acute humanitarian and early recovery needs. Over the years, Africa and Asia have received most support. Humanitarian assistance is the predominant budget source. Sida's contributions should be analyzed in conjunction with Sweden's annual core support to UNHCR – MSEK 599 in 2010, which is somewhat unique as it is earmarked for specific regions and purposes. Together with Sida's contribution, Sweden's total support adds up to a total of MSEK 765 to UNHCR for 2010.

Contributions from Sida in support of UNHCR'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 (MFA) or another ministry, and only in exceptional cases by Sida.

The amount of Sida support to UNHCR has increased gradually during the period 2004–2010 as a response to emergency situations in the world. The increase is also a result of a policy decision which allowed Sida¹ to complement the MFA core support with specific support to UNHCR through the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), initially to support UNHCR to take on its

added responsibility for IDPs (in line with the humanitarian reform and its division of labour agreed in 2005). The number of contributions is increasing. (Table 1) For the reasons explained above, Sida's support must be analysed in conjunction with the support disbursed by the MFA. The two are complementary as they can be destined for the same UNHCR operations.

The share of support going to the respective regions varies considerably from year to year depending on where emergencies occur in the world. For example, 22 percent to Middle East in 2010 is exemplified by the support to UNHCR following the continued displacement of millions of Iraqis both inside and outside Iraq (Table 2).

Table 1: Sida annual disbursements 2005–2010 in MSEK

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of contributions	2	6	10	8	9	14
Total amount	41.6	34.0	45.7	95.1	138.7	166.1

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

¹ In 1998 a policy decision was taken to gather all Swedish support through a core support to UNHCR from the MFA; Sida was then only supposed to support UNHCR in case of unforeseen and major crises.

Mandate and strategic priorities

UNHCR is the United Nations refugee agency which is mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee situations worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. UNHCR works in partnership with governments, regional organisations, and international and non-governmental organisations. The core support from Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) to UNHCR is earmarked for specific regions and country operations, following UNHCR's priorities. One difference be-

tween the support to UNHCR disbursed by the MFA and Sida's support, is that the former is provided as a contribution to UNHCR's annual budget, while the latter is provided in response to regional or country specific UN Coordinated Appeals Process (UNCAP) requesting support for protracted emergency situations. These emergencies are in some cases the same as those included in UNHCR's annual budget. In addition, Sida supports UNHCR's Flash appeals requesting support for new emergency situations, as they occur in the course of the year.

Sida's support to UNHCR by Region

As reflected in the pie chart below (Table 3) Asia (63 %) and Africa (22 %) have received most support during the period 2004–2010. Only 3 % of the contribution is directed to the Global level for Junior Professional Office (JPO).

Sida's support to UNHCR by Sector

Humanitarian assistance is the predominant budget sector with 97 percent of the funding during 2010 (Table 4). However, in 2007 there was one large human rights project at the global level (22 MSEK), and three smaller human rights projects (Guatemala, Colombia and Uganda). Support to UNHCR is also given, inter alia, in the form of the financing of 5 Swedish Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) placed in Colombia, Sri Lanka, Congo, Sudan and Geneva. This accounted for 3 percent of the total

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

Region/year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Africa	0	44	25	52	22	22
Latin America	0	0	16	0	0	6
Asia	72	38	30	33	73	47
Europe/Middle East	0	0	0	8	0	22
Global	28	18	29	7	5	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

disbursements in 2010 and is located in the regional category "Global" and the budget sector category "Other". JPO's are initially recruited and placed for two years, however, most JPOs stay for three years. Sida is open for changes in the geographic placement for the last year (year 3). 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.

Table 3: Sida annual disbursements 2005–2010 per Region

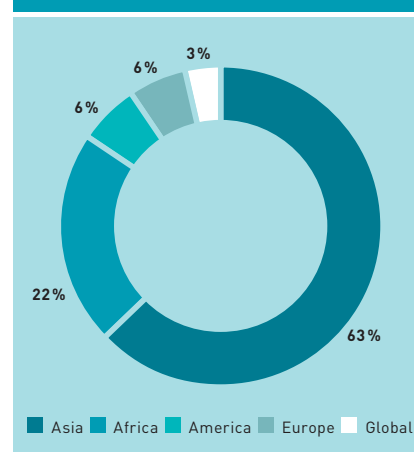


Table 4: Sida main budget sector

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Democracy, Human Rights & Gender Equality	0	0	47	0	0	0
Humanitarian Assistance	72	82	50	93	95	97
Other	28	18	3	7	5	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100