

Sida's support to UNIFEM 2010 & the creation of UN Women 2010/2011*

This portfolio analysis refers to Sweden's contribution to the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM in 2010. It also addresses Sweden's support in the establishment in 2010/2011 of the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – UN Women.

Gender equality is a thematic priority in Swedish development cooperation. Sweden has increased contributions to gender equality and previously supported UNIFEM and now supports UN Women, as an important partner in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – UN Women. The new organization is operational as of 1 January 2011 and replaced UNIFEM and three additional gender institutions within the UN secretariat. In 2010, Sweden's core contribution disbursed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to UNIFEM amounted to MSEK 26, which, together with Sida's contributions, adds up to Swedish support of MSEK 76.

The establishment of UN Women is a historic step in accelerating the Organization's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women. In 2010, Sida Global Programs also contributed with MSEK 3 to the initiation phase for the establishment of the new UN body. This makes Sweden one of the largest donors to UN Women and Sweden has been elected to serve on its Executive Board during the first two years 2011–12. The assignment gives Sweden a unique opportunity to actively contribute during the critical consolidation phase of the new organization.

The creation of UN Women came about as part of the UN reform

agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for the purpose of greater impact. It merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focused exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment:

- Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)
- Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Contributions from Sida in support of UNIFEM'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.

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

UNIFEM's mandate and strategic priorities

UNIFEM was the The United Nations Development Fund for Women at the United Nations. It provided financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality. UNIFEM promoted women's empowerment, rights and gender equality at global, regional and country level.

The Strategic Plan for UNIFEM 2008–2011¹ outlined the following priority areas (1) providing innovative programming and financial

support that can act as a catalyst to help countries to achieve gender equality in line with their national priorities, and (2) strengthening action on gender equality across the United Nations system. The operational priorities were to enhance women's economic security and rights; to stop violence against women and reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women and girls; and to advance gender justice in democratic governance.

The main task of UN Women is:

- Normative: to support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms.
- Operational: to help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
- Accountability: to hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

In 2010, Sida made 7 contributions to UNIFEM to a total amount of MSEK 50 (see table 1). This is almost same as previous year. As table 1 reflects, the number of contributions has decreased marginally the last year, from 12 in 2009 to 7 in 2010 (Table 1). The amount disbursed in 2010 MSEK 50 is almost the same as previous year 2009 MSEK 51.

Sida's support to UN Women by Region

With regard to geographical distribution Asia was the largest recipient region in 2010, followed by Africa and Latin America. The contributions are concentrated on relatively few countries and sub-regions. Afghanistan, Colombia and Sudan received more

than half of the amount disbursed during 2010. A continuous trend for 2010 was an increased support for the UNIFEM country offices in conflict and post-conflict countries. In these countries, UNIFEM is a key player working for the elimination of gender-based violence and the promotion of women's participation in conflict prevention and peace-building.

Sida's support to UN Women by Sector

Almost all contributions in the five-year period were in the Human rights and democratic governance sector apart from one contribution of 600 000 SEK in 2006 to support a caucus on health education.

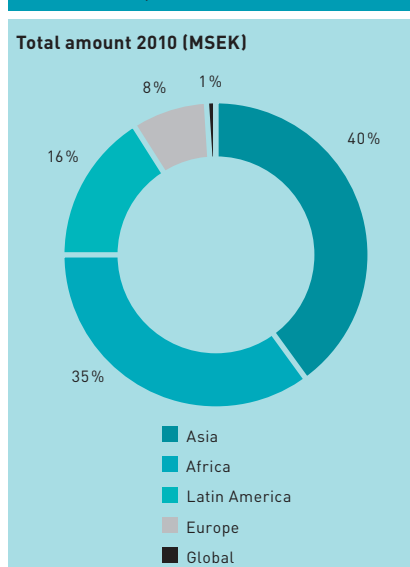
Table 1: Sida annual disbursements 2005–2010 to UNIFEM and UN WOMEN

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010-(UNIFEM-UNWOMEN)
No. of contributions	10	13	9	5	12	7
Total amount (MSEK)	37.5	51.6	44.8	14.9	51.3	50.0

Table 3: Sida annual disbursements 2004–2010 by region (percentage of total amount per year)

Region/year	2004	2006	2008	2009	2010-(UNIFEM-UNWOMEN)
Africa	75	60	20	29	35
Latin America	10	17	51	25	16
Asia	0	8	29	20	40
Europe	15	15	0	23	8
Global	0	0	0	3	1
Grand total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 2: Sida's annual disbursements in 2010 by region (percentage of total amount 2010)



¹ UN Women has a new strategic direction as of June 2011.

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's overall relations with UNIFEM please contact focal point annika.tornqvist@sida.se

