

Sida's Portfolio within Democracy and Human Rights 2011

Democracy and Human Rights is a thematic priority in Swedish Development cooperation. The support has been divided into three main areas – Human Rights, Institutions and Procedures of Democracy and Rule of Law, and Actors for Democratisation including Civil Society. The total contribution was SEK 4 480 million in 2011. This is a slight increase in volume of SEK 292 million and an increase in share from 26,3% to 27,5% of Sida's total support compared to 2010.

Sida's starting point is that all rights are equally important, universal in nature, indivisible and mutually interdependent. The definition of democratic governance includes efforts to increase and empower 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, which to some extent overlap. These are civil and political rights and, institutions and procedures of democracy and the rule of law, and actors of democratization.

Human Rights

Sida's work on human rights is broader than the focus area civil and political rights in the policy. This includes supporting the strengthening of the international legal framework and the human rights system as such as well as working closely with civil society organizations. The total volume of support reached SEK 1 135 million in 2011. Sida supports national human rights institutions, public defenders' offices and global human rights organizations which play key roles in strengthening the respect and fulfillment of human rights and the reporting of violations in partner countries.

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.

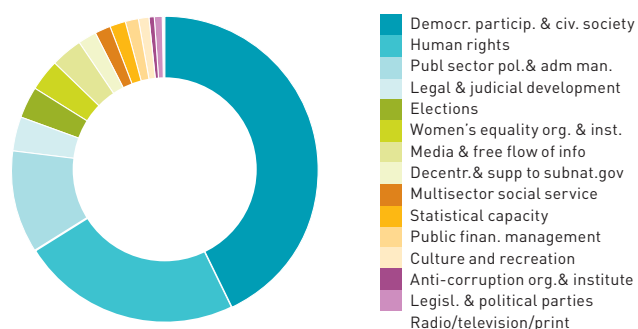
Sida's support to persons with disabilities (PwD) goes through civil society organisations in Sweden, globally and in partner countries that work with advocacy, report on human rights violations and develop methods and tools for better inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The work of 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 framework, 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 channeled through the Governments' special initiative for democratisation and freedom of expression.

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



The Institutions and Procedures of Democracy and the Rule of Law

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 responsive 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.

In 2011, the total costs for Sida's portfolio within democratic institutions and procedures of democracy and the rule of law amounted to SEK 1 141 million.

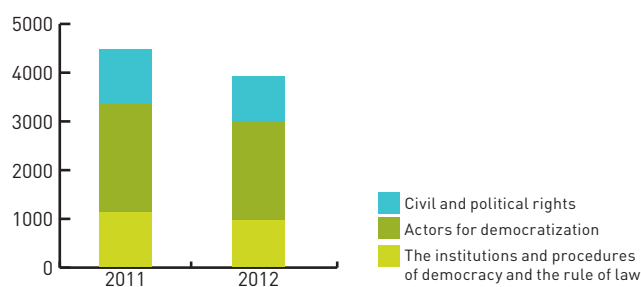
Rule of Law and equal access of justice for all are aspects of democratization. Examples of Sida contributions in this area are support to transnational justice initiatives, legal protection and legal awareness, specialized police for gender based violence, and system-wide support to all links in the 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's role in elections, domestic and international elections observation, political party system development, and management of electoral disputes.

Actors for Democracy 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 1700 civil society organisations working all over the world. The goal for this support is to

Table 2: Total costs Democracy and human rights. Includes contributions above SEK 1 million.



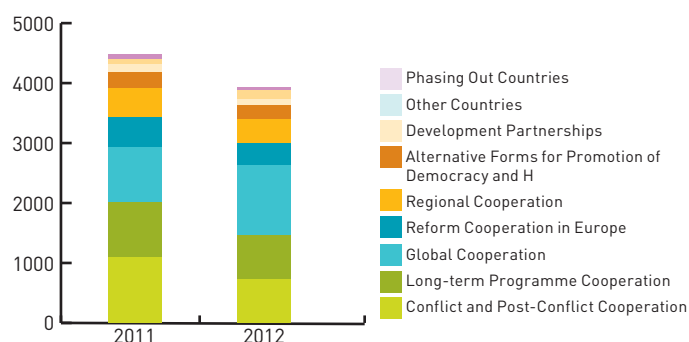
promote the development of a vibrant and democratic civil society and strengthen democratic participation in partner countries. This is being done with an aim to support a democratic culture, support to political party systems, women's rights organisations, media and anti-corruption organisation and institutes are also important components of this focus area. In 2011, a total amount of SEK 2 203

million had a direct focus on actors for democratization including civil society.

Geographical distribution

Table 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 increasing its share from 22,1% to 24% in 2009-2011. It is followed by Long Term Programme Cooperation which shows an decrease from 22,8% to 20,6% over the same period. Part of the increase are also Global Cooperation (17,1% to 20,4%), Alternative Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights (2,6% to 5,9%). Reform cooperation in Europe (12% to 11,5%) is decreasing as well as Regional Cooperation (12% to 11%) and Development Partnerships (3,5% to 2,9) are also decreasing. Likewise, cooperation that falls outside these categories is down from 8,1% to 3,7%¹.

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



1 Other countries and phasing out countries

Highlights 2011-2012

- Sida has delivered a result report entitled; "Results for Justice and Development" (Sida 2012) covering results on democracy, human rights and human rights based approach.
- Within the area of civil and political rights Sida's support has a particular focus on freedom of expression and the emergence of free, independent media. Free use of information technology is another area as well as to help ensure universal suffrage.
- Sida has worked with performing arts in the Middle East and North Africa where the overall contribution is designed to promote a strong and diverse environment of communication.
- Within the focus area institutions and procedures of democracy and the rule of law emphasis has been put on the importance of building properly functioning institutions, political processes and systems, which strengthens people's influence on politics in a country
- Sida has worked in order to increase municipal revenues from property taxes in Kosovo as well as assisted in regional anti-corruption work in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Within the focus area actors of democratization the aim has not only been for a country to have democratic political institutions. It has equally been important to develop a democratic political culture among individual citizens.
- Sida has worked with democracy at local level in Mali where the overall objective has been to strengthen grassroots organisations in order for them to contribute; using human rights based approach, to democratic governance in the everyday life of people. Sida has also worked to build an effective decentralized administration with the capacity to increase welfare and to strengthen human rights of poor women and men in Cambodia. Furthermore, institutional development of Mozambique's Court of Auditors has been supported in order to strengthen the capacity to carry out external audits of the Mozambican state and thereby promote transparency and accountability as well as to counteract corruption.