

Sida's Portfolio within Democracy, Human Rights and Public Administration in 2012

Democracy and Human Rights is one of the three thematic priorities the Swedish development cooperation as well as a sector. Sida's work within the area is guided by The Policy for Democratic Development and Human Rights in Swedish Development Cooperation, 2010–2014.

This overview shows Sida's disbursements to the sector divided by subsectors and country categories in 2012.

Sida's work in the area of Democracy, Human Rights and Public Administration amounts to just over SEK 5 billion and constitutes the largest sector in the development portfolio with 29 % of all of Sida's support. The sector is a cornerstone of Swedish development cooperation.

The work is guided by the Policy for Democratic Development and Human Rights in Swedish Development Cooperation, 2010–2014, Change for Freedom. It takes premise in the principles that all human rights are universal, interdependent and indivisible. This said the policy gives extra attention to civil and political rights and rule of law. These play a fundamental role in building democracies and reducing poverty in all its dimensions. Democracy is defined as the collective decision-making and exercise of power by citizens living on equal terms in society.

The policy has three focus areas:

- Civil and political rights
- Institutions and procedures of democracy and the rule of law
- Actors of democratization.

Increased support to democracy and human rights

The total contribution to the sector amounted to just over SEK 5 billion. Sida uses OECDs policy markers to grade and track thematic priorities in all contributions. Out of the total disbursements made in the sector in 2012, 46 % of the contributions were marked as having Democracy

and human rights as the principal objective, meaning that it is the main reason for the supported intervention. Furthermore 36 % were marked as having democracy and human rights as a significant objective, meaning that it is mainstreamed throughout the contribution. As shown in chart 1 the total amount disbursed is increasing but the distribution of policy markers remain about the same.

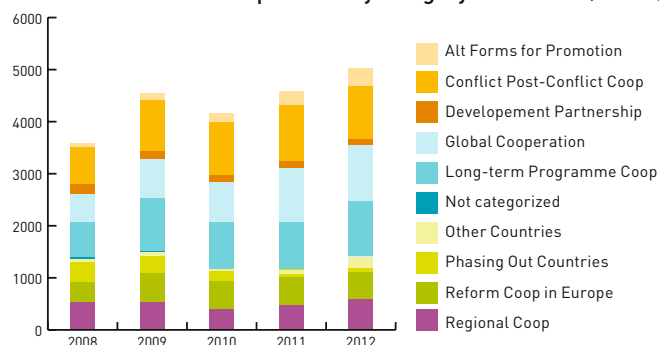
Geographical distribution

Chart 1 shows distribution per country category as a share of the total disbursements in 2012. Long term programme cooperation and global cooperation were the largest categories in 2012, receiving about 21 % each or disbursements of just over SEK 1 billion. Conflict and Post-Conflict Cooperation remained a large category also receiving just over SEK 1 billion equivalent to 20 % of disbursements. Reform cooperation in Europe received 11 % or SEK 545 million, a slight increase from previous years. Afghanistan was the one single largest partner country receiving SEK 306 million for public administration work in 2012 or 6 % of the total disbursements, followed by Mozambique SEK 201 million and Cambodia SEK 180 million.

Freedom of Expression and ICT

The policy Change for Freedom highlights civil and political rights as being of particular relevance in connection with an intensified, focused democracy support effort. Freedom of expression and the emergence of free and independent media, including their role in fostering accountability, are therefore given priority. As a part of media development Sida especially focuses on improving the legal framework, strengthening the professional capacity and supporting economic sustainability. Sida works across the spectrum with journalist, media organisations, NGOs and public institutions, in long term cooperation countries, in conflict and post-conflicts countries and in Eastern Europe. The support to media and free flow of

Chart 1: Disbursements per country category 2008–2012 (MSEK)



information has been rather stable on 3–4 % of the total democracy and human rights work during the last five years. In 2012 the work amounted to SEK 167 million. See chart 3.

There are often strong links between supporting freedom of expression and the work to exploit information and communications technology (ICT). New technology and internet allow people to both access and participate in public debate and media in revolutionary ways. Freedom of expression and the principle of transparency are therefore to be mainstreamed in the work with internet and internet governance. One such example is the work under the Strategy for special initiatives for democratization and freedom of expression 2012–2014.

Justice Sector Support and Access to Justice

The access to justice of poor women, men, children and young people should determine how judicial bodies are planned and structured. This means for example that the justice chain as a whole, from the police investigation to

the treatment of inmates in prison, is considered in order to facilitate reforms and address issues such as impunity and corruption. In this area the work with public institutions such as the police and judiciary play a central role but the strengthening of other actors is also important, such as NGOs offering legal aid and support, acting as watchdogs or influencing policy makers through advocacy. In the last three years the support to the justice sector has amounted to around 4–5 % of the democracy and human rights portfolio. The support was reduced from SEK 248 million in 2009 to SEK 148 million in 2010 but was back up to SEK 227 million in 2012. See chart 3.

In conflict and post-conflict countries the legal and justice sector amounted to approximately SEK 114 million in 2012. This work is often especially sensitive as the justice sector may be very political and not uncontroversial. At the same time it is crucial to involve issues of how to deal with the past and creating conditions for moving forward through for example transitional justice and security sector reform.

Chart 2: Disbursements per geographical distribution 2012

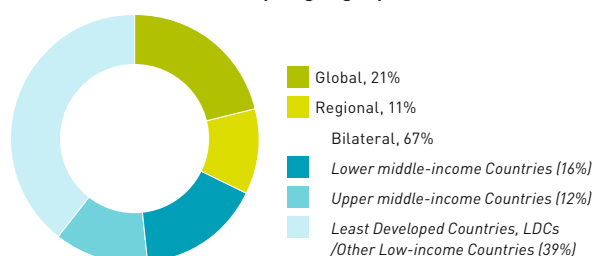
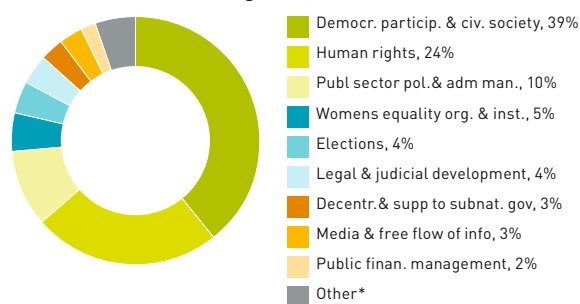


Chart 3: Distribution per subsector within Democracy and Human Rights



* Anti-corruption org. & institute, Culture and recreation, Legisl. & political parties, Multisector social service, Statistical capacity, Employment policy, Free flow of information, Government administration, Public sector finan. management and Radio/television/print.

Highlights

SUPPORT TO DEMOCRATISATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

A government strategy for democratisation and freedom of expression focusing on support to actors in difficult situations has been in operation since 2009.

From 2009 until mid-2013, 130 initiatives were funded with SEK 570 million. One third of those included protection for activists and 16 individuals received particular assistance. Target groups were journalists and media organisations, human rights defenders, LGBT activists, digital activists, students and youth, decision makers, women's rights activists and vulnerable groups. Many initiatives directed to the least democratic countries were made through international organisations. Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia-Pacific and Middle East-North Africa are otherwise the most targeted geographical areas.

HELP TO BECOME BRAVE

Fear to speak up and say something "wrong" characterizes the Cambodian society. Loy9 in Cambodia helps young Cambodians to get knowledge and to participate in the affairs of the community. This is done through a media project, involving TV, radio, mobile telephones and social media. The programmes are made by young people, for young people. Loy9 is immensely popular, the logo is copied on T-shirts and gadgets throughout the country. In opinion polls viewers say that when you watch Loy9, it helps you to become courageous. In 2013 Sida supported BBC Media Action through UNDP with MSEK 7.