

Portfolio Overview

Sida's Support to UN Women 2012

Gender equality and the advancement of women's rights is a thematic priority in Swedish development cooperation. Sweden has increased its support to UN Women as an important partner in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2012, Sweden's core contribution to UN Women, allocated by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA), amounted to 50 MSEK. Together with Sida's contributions of 83 MSEK, the total Swedish funding added up to 133 MSEK for 2012, making Sweden the 2nd largest donor to UN Women.

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – UN Women¹. In a short period of time, UN Women has managed to decide on a range of issues to become fully operational. One key decision is the establishment of a new regional architecture and decentralization (November 2012) in order to create a more efficient and results oriented organization through increased capacity and presence at country and regional level.

Looking at the total support to UN Women (from both MFA and Sida), Sweden is the second biggest donor after Norway. UN Women

suffers, however, from a financially difficult situation as a consequence of the global financial crisis. Sweden was elected to serve on its Executive Board during the first two years 2011–12, and has played a crucial role in contributing to the critical consolidation phase of the new organization. It is important that Sweden and Sida continues to play a central role in supporting UN Women to reach sustainable results on gender equality at country and regional level.

In 2012, Sida made six contributions to UN Women, to a total amount of 83 MSEK. The amount disbursed to UN Women has steadily increased since 2009 (with the exception of a slight decrease in 2010),

Definition of Multilateral and Multi-Bi Support (Core and non-Core contributions)

Contributions from Sida to UN Women for programmes and projects are often entitled "Multi-Bi" (multilateral bilateral) support or earmarked, non-core contributions. These should be distinguished from non-earmarked contributions to the organization's regular budget, usually called core support and also labelled "multilateral aid". The latter type of support is processed and decided upon by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

TABLE 1: SIDA ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS 2009–2012 TO UN WOMEN

Year	2009	2010 (UNIFEM-UNWOMEN)	2011	2012
No. of contributions	12	7	8	6
Total amount (MSEK)	51.3	50.0	77	83

¹ The creation of UN Women came about as part of the UN reform agenda. 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) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

while the number of contributions has decreased from 12 in 2009 to 6 in 2012. This decrease can partly be explained by decisions taken at country level not to renew contracts, but also by an increase in new funding modalities. UN Women receives, for instance, a significant amount of money through support to ONE UN (e.g. Albania) and UN Joint Gender Programs (e.g. Ethiopia and Liberia) and plays a central role in these coordinated funding mechanisms. This is not reflected in the statistics however, as UN Women is not the agreement part to Sweden.

With regard to geographical distribution, Africa was the largest recipient region in 2012, followed by Global Support to the implementation of UN Women's Strategic Plan. The contributions are concentrated to relatively few countries and sub-regions. UN Women continues to play an important role in conflict and post-conflict countries such as Colombia, Sudan and South-Sudan.

TABLE 2: SIDA TOTAL SUPPORT TO UN WOMEN 2012		
Responsible unit/Embassy	Name of programme	Disbursement 2012 (MSEK)
Global/Sida	Support that covers two of UN Women's six goals in its Strategic Plan (Women's Leadership and Participation and Women, Peace and Security).	30
Colombia	Women's Rights to Truth, Justice and Reconciliation	4
Kenya	Consolidating UN Women Kenya Strategic Note	15
Moldova	Women Economic Empowerment through Increasing Employability in the Republic of Moldova	4
Sudan	Consolidating UN Women Sudan Strategic Note	15
South Sudan	Consolidating UN Women South Sudan Strategic Note	15
JPO	Ethiopia and Rwanda	1.9
Total		84.9

In these countries, UN Women is a key player working for the elimination and prevention of gender-based violence and the promotion of women's participation in conflict prevention and peace-building. In 2012, UN Women received increased support for countries with which Sida has long-term and selective cooperation, as for instance Kenya and Moldova.

In these contexts, UN Women plays a crucial role in improving women's empowerment.

In order to increase the number of qualified Swedish staff at multilaterals in areas of strategic relevance for Sweden, Sida had 2 JPOs (UN Junior Professional Officers) placed at UN Women in Ethiopia and Rwanda during 2012.

MANDATE AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The main roles of UN Women are:

- *Normative*: To support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 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.

The Strategic Plan for UN Women (2011–13) focuses on six thematic priorities:

- (1) Expand women's leadership and participation;
- (2) End violence against women;
- (3) Strengthen the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda;
- (4) Enhance women's economic empowerment;
- (5) Make gender equality priorities central to national planning and budgeting at all levels;
- (6) Ensure that intergovernmental decision making of the United Nations contributes to strengthening the normative and policy framework for gender equality at country level.