

## Portfolio Overview

# Sida's Support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 2012

In 2012, Sida made two contributions to UNHCR with a total amount of 209 MSEK (disbursed). Of this total, 206 MSEK was humanitarian assistance in response to emergency appeals in regional or country specific refugee and/or internal displacement situations. In 2012, Iraq, Syria and Mali were major recipients of humanitarian support. The volume of support to different regions varies from year to year according to acute humanitarian needs. Over the years, Africa and Asia have received most support. UNHCR is a purely humanitarian organization and all Sida support to UNHCR's operations is based on assessments of humanitarian needs. In addition to Sida's contributions, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) allocates an annual Swedish core support to UNHCR which amounted to 613 MSEK in 2012. Hence, the total Swedish contribution to UNHCR added up to 822 MSEK for 2012.

Contributions from Sida to UNHCR's operations are often entitled "Multi-Bi" (multi-bilateral) support. This should be distinguished from non-earmarked contributions to the regular budget, usually called core support and also labelled "multilateral aid". The latter is processed and decided upon by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA).

The amount of Sida's support to UNHCR has increased gradually since 2004. This increase has continued during the period 2008–2012 as a response to emergency situations in the world. The increase was also a result of a policy decision which allowed Sida<sup>1</sup> to complement the MFA core support with regional or country specific operational support to UNHCR through the UN Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and to UNHCR's Flash appeals. Initially, this shift was made to

support UNHCR to take on its added responsibility for internal displacement situations in line with the humanitarian reform and its division of labour agreed upon in 2005. Sida's support is complementary to the annual core support channelled by the MFA. In 2012, MFA contributed with 613 MSEK in un-earmarked core funding to UNHCR's annual budget. The total Swedish contribution to UNHCR for 2012 added up to 822 MSEK.

The number of Sida contributions

to UNHCR increased during 2008–2011. However, the marked decline in the number of contributions in 2012 is due to a shift in administrative procedures, where Sida now makes one consolidated contribution to UNHCR for humanitarian assistance, including various country operations (Table 1). The second contribution refers to JPO funding, which accounted for 3 MSEK in 2012.

The share of support per region varies considerably from year to year depending on where emergencies

TABLE 1: SIDA ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS 2008–2012

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of contributions	8	9	14	13	2
Total amount (MSEK)	95.1	138.7	166	186	209

<sup>1</sup> In 1998, a policy decision was taken to gather all Swedish support in the form of a core support to UNHCR from the MFA; while Sida support to UNHCR was only channelled in case of unforeseen and large scale humanitarian crises.

## MANDATE AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 14 December, 1950. The agency is mandated to lead and coordinate international actions to protect refugees and resolve refugee situations worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of refugees. Its activities fall into the categories of protection, assistance and durable solutions in displacement situations.

UNHCR's mandate is based on the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the additional protocol from 1967.

UNHCR is an important actor in the international humanitarian system and is responsible for leading the Global Protection Cluster, as well as the Cluster for Camp Coordination and Camp

Management (CCCM), and the Cluster for Emergency shelter in emergencies.

UNHCR is a highly field based organisation operating through field offices in approximately 125 countries. UNHCR works in partnership with governments, regional organisations, as well as international and non-governmental organisations. For more information on UNHCR; [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org).

Strategic priorities in Sida's support to UNHCR for 2012 has been:

- Support to the pilot project Transitions Solutions Initiative (TSI) in East Sudan and Colombia with the objective to elaborate durable solutions for refugees and IDPs,
- Thematic support to enhanced field implementation of UNHCR's policy on Protection from Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

**TABLE 2: SIDA ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS 2008–2012 BY REGION (PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AMOUNT PER YEAR)**

Region/year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Africa	52	22	22	48	49
Latin America	0	0	6	6	8
Asia	33	73	69	44	39
Europe	8	0	0	0	0
Global	7	5	3	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

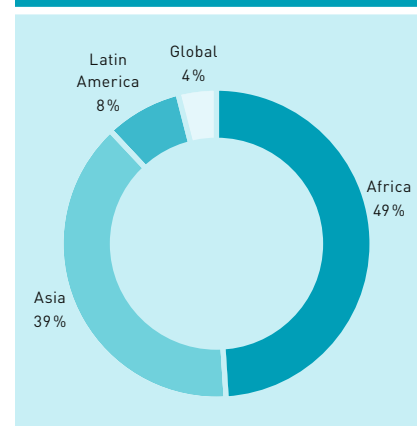
occur in the world. Over the years, Africa and Asia have received most support (Table 2). In 2012, the contributions to Africa included support to UNHCR's operations in Chad, Somalia, Sudan, Mali, DR Congo and South Sudan. The contributions to Asia included support to operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. The contribution to Latin America included Colombia. All Sida support to UNHCR's operations is based on assessments of humanitarian needs.

The budget source for support to UNHCR is predominantly Humanitarian assistance (98 %).

Support to UNHCR is also given in the form of funding Swedish Junior Professional Officers (JPOs). JPO funding accounted for 3 MSEK in 2012, which was 2 percent of the total disbursements (Table 3).

During 2012 Sida funded four JPOs to UNHCR placed in Geneva, Zimbabwe, Nairobi/Kenya, and Lebanon/Beirut. Out of the four JPOs for UNHCR, three of them were retained by UNHCR.

**UNHCR SUPPORT BY REGION 2012**



**TABLE 3: SIDA ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS 2008–2012 BY SECTOR (PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AMOUNT PER YEAR)**

Sida main sector	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Humanitarian Aid	93	95	97	98	98
Other	7	5	3	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's overall relations with UNHCR, please contact focal point [ingela.winter-norberg@sida.se](mailto:ingela.winter-norberg@sida.se)

