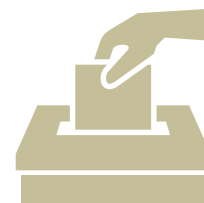




Democracy, Human Rights and Public Administration 2013

Democracy and civil and political rights are essential for providing people living in poverty and under oppression with voice and choice for improving their living conditions – and for claiming their economic, social and cultural rights. Democracy and human rights is one of the three thematic priorities of Swedish development cooperation and the rights perspective is applied across all sectors of Swedish aid. Sida's support to the sector amounted to SEK 5.3 billion in 2013. This makes democracy and human rights Sida's largest sector, accounting for 30 percent of Sida's total disbursements.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Democracy and civil and political rights are Swedish development cooperation objectives in their own right. The support to democracy, civil and political rights and public administration plays a fundamental role in combatting oppression, building democracies and reducing poverty in all its dimensions. The work is guided by the principles that all human rights are universal, interdependent and indivisible. Priority is given to four focus areas:

- building robust democratic processes and the rule of law
- strengthening of civil and political rights, democratic influence and organisation
- support to a pluralistic society and the actors of democratisation, and
- promotion of greater access to free and independent media.

While human rights puts focus on the individual, democracy is the process of collective decision-making and exercise of power by citizens living on equal terms in society. Support

to all phases of the electoral process therefore remains a key priority for Sida.

The focus of Sida's work on democracy and human rights is also reflected in the size of the support. Democratic participation and civil society is the largest sub-sector, 2.1 billion and 40 percent – and human rights the second largest, SEK 1.4 billion and 26 percent of the total portfolio. In terms of regional distribution, most development cooperation goes to countries in sub-Saharan Africa, 32 percent, followed by Asia including the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, 26 percent. Support to global initiatives, for example through United Nations organizations like UNDP, makes up for 23 percent of the total support within the sector (see table 2). Afghanistan was the single largest recipient country with SEK 252 million directed mainly towards statebuilding efforts, followed by Mozambique SEK 183 million and Kenya SEK 173 million.



TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION PER SUBSECTOR WITHIN DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MILLION SEK

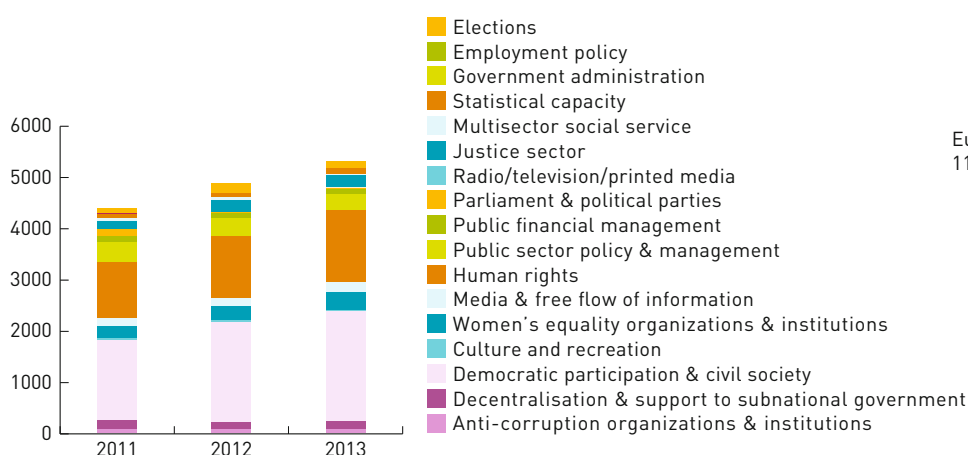
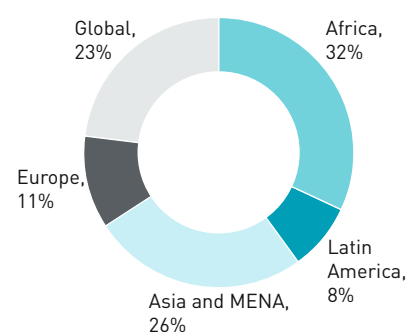


TABLE 2: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION, %



RESULTS

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

Over the past 30 years, democracy has made great strides in the world, particularly in countries and regions where Sweden is engaged with development cooperation. More people than ever before have been able to choose their leaders in multiparty elections, freedom from oppression has increased, and public support for democracy is strong. For example, the Sida supported initiative Afrobarometer shows that 7 out of 10 Africans want democracy, and there is rising demand on the continent for more inclusive democratic processes.

At the same time we see that the advancement of democracy in the world has stalled, or possibly even been reversed, in the past 10 years. Non-Western democratic and semi-democratic states are taking more initiatives in the

sector, but influence over how politics is organized is also increasingly effected by authoritarian states. The global democracy landscape has therefore changed considerably over the last decade. The space for promoting democratic development is shrinking, and the competition for achieving impact is greater – which is also manifested in the ongoing formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

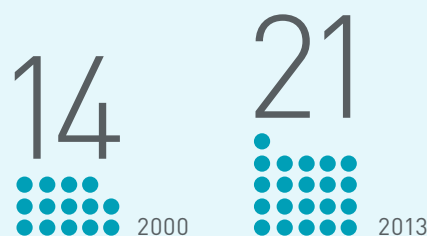
This reminds us that democracy is an ongoing process that must be constantly upheld and consolidated, but also defended against authoritarian forces. Sweden and Sida will continue to work actively on global, regional and country levels to ensure that democratic progress over the last 30 years is not eroded but rather strengthened and deepened.

SWEDISH SUPPORT

Elections are key for ensuring that governments are democratically legitimate and representative of the citizenry. Sida contributes to establishing and upholding democratic electoral processes through many interlinked forms of support. This includes strengthening of electoral management bodies and their independence from other government branches, establishing credible voter registration and voters rolls, support to plural and independent media coverage of elections, voter education and access to information, national and international elections observation and direct support to vulnerable and excluded groups for ensuring their capacity to fully participate in the electoral process. During the period 2009 to 2013, Sida has contributed to 41 national elections in 21 countries – and supported local government elections in 15 countries. At the national level, this has allowed 294 million people to exercise their human rights to decide on their political representatives. During the same period, Sida has contributed to local election observation of 36 elections in

19 countries, and supported Swedish participation in 45 international observer missions in another 34 countries. Parliaments have been supported in 10 countries and more than 600 political parties have received training and capacity building for taking part in multi-party politics.

NUMBER OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS, %



The proportion of women in the world's parliaments increased from 14 to 21 percent between 2000 and 2013. Swedish support for democracy and human rights is largely focused on gender equality and women's rights.

STORY OF CHANGE

Zimbabwe

In March 2013, an overwhelming majority of the Zimbabwean people voted in favor of a new constitution, and Sweden was the biggest financial contributor to the process among the development partners. For three years, Sweden contributed to the funding of the broad, consultative process – including the 5000 meetings across the country where people could provide their views on

what the constitution should contain. Sweden was also the Chairman of the donor group, and led the dialogue with Zimbabwe's government and Parliament. By patiently supporting this long and politically very difficult process, often threatened by anti-democratic tendencies, Sweden contributed constructively to the adoption of a modern and democratic constitution in Zimbabwe.