

Portfolio Overview

Sida's support to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) 2013

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 2013, Sida's contributions to UN Women amounted to 103 MSEK. Together with the core support allocated by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) on 125 MSEK, the total Swedish funding added up to 228 MSEK.

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – UN Women. In a short period of time, UN Women has managed to decide and act upon on a range of internal issues to become fully operational at the same time as it has achieved results advancing women's rights and gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Financial Overview

Looking at the total support to UN Women (core and non-core), Sweden was the largest donor in 2013, followed by Norway and Finland. Resources remain a challenge, however, and there is a continuous need for increased financial support if UN Women is to meet the expectations of stake-holders and deliver on its new strategic plan 2014–17.

In 2013, Sida made nine contributions to UN Women to a total amount of 103 MSEK. The amount disbursed to UN Women has doubled since 2009, while the number of contributions has decreased from twelve in 2009 to nine in 2013. This decrease in number of contributions can partly be explained by decisions taken at country level not to renew contracts, but also by an increase in new funding modalities. For instance, UN Women receives a significant amount of money through support to ONE UN (e.g. Albania) and UN Joint Gender Programs (e.g. Ethiopia and Liberia) which is not included in the volumes mentioned above.

Geographical and Thematic Distribution

With regards to geographical distribution, Africa was the largest recipient region in 2013, followed by a global support to the

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 organisation'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.

implementation of UN Women's Strategic Plan. A great part of Sida's support to UN Women goes to conflict and post-conflict countries, such as Afghanistan, Colombia, Mali, Sudan and South-Sudan. In 2013, UN Women received increased support for countries with which Sida has long-term and selective cooperation, as for instance Kenya. Sida's support to UN Women country offices aims to support the whole strategic plan, or strategic note, of the particular country office, but is sometimes limited to a specific programme or project.

TABLE 1: SIDA'S ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS TO UNIFEM/UN WOMEN 2009–2013

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of contributions	12	7	7	6	9
Total Sida	51	50	78	83	103

CHART 1: SIDA'S SUPPORT TO UNIFEM/UN WOMEN BY REGION 2009–2013 (MSEK)

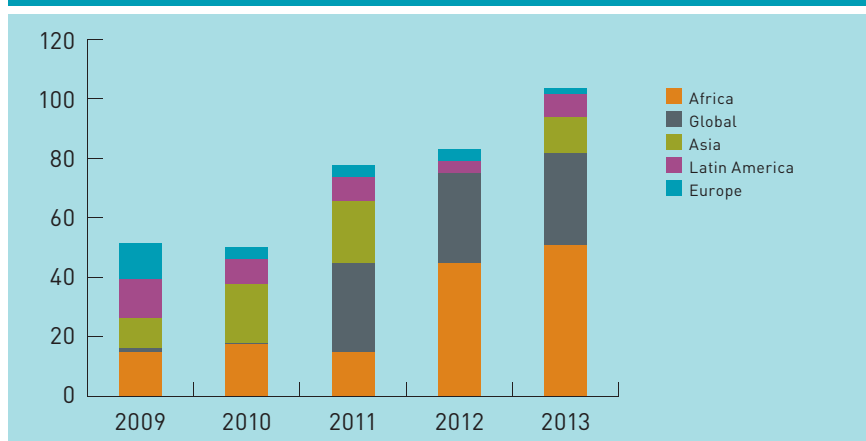
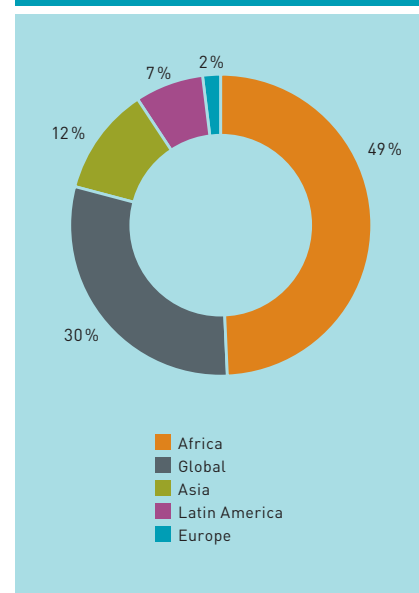


CHART 2: SIDA'S SUPPORT TO UN WOMEN BY REGION 2013



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.

In 2013, UN Women's **Strategic Plan for 2014–17** was approved with the following six focus areas:

- Women's leadership and participation;
- Women's economic empowerment;
- Violence against women and girls;
- Women, peace and security and humanitarian action;
- Gender sensitive governance and national planning;
- Global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment

In order to increase the number of qualified Swedish staff in multilateral organisations in areas of strategic relevance for Sweden, Sida had two JPOs (UN Junior Professional Officers) placed at UN Women in Rwanda and Ethiopia during 2013.

Results

Global Trends

Gender equality and the rights of women and girls received increased attention in inter-governmental processes in 2013, resulting in significant improvements in the global and normative framework. This progress is partly explained by UN Women's expanded support and its pro-active role in, for instance, the 57th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on Elimination and Prevention of Violence Against Women, as well as the post 2015 discussions on a new development agenda, in which UN Women has presented a stand-alone goal for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN Women has also advanced in its mandate of promoting greater coherence and accountability in the UN system, leading, for instance, the first reporting cycle on the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Projects and Programmes

A majority of Sida's support is in the area of women's increased leadership in peace and security and humanitarian response. For example, UN Women provided safe spaces for Syrian women and girls in Jordan refugee camps. Thanks to Sida's support, UN Women provided, for the very first time, high level gender expertise to UN Mediation Teams and Special Envoys. In Colombia, where Sweden's support to UN Women is approximately 20 percent of the total programme budget, UN Women has, with support from civil society, successfully pushed the government to increase the number of women peace negotiators from zero to two, as well as the inclusion of a gender perspective in peace accord discussions.

In the Kenyan elections 2013, women candidates managed to get 87 of 416 parliamentary seats, i.e. one fifth, which is a historic high for Kenyan women. The result can partly be ascribed to UN Women, which has supported Kenyan women's leadership for years. This included constitutional support for the strengthening of women and girls' equal rights, and the establishment of a so called "team of eminent persons", consisting of prominent Kenyan advocates for women's rights with the task to ensure a

gender just electoral process, train women candidates and carry out the campaign "Women in Leadership".

People First

– Results at the Individual Level

In Afghanistan, women and girls strive to get an education and illiteracy rate among women is only 12 percent. But education can be costly and not everybody can afford it. For 20-year old Beheshta, the classes offered by the UN Women-supported ICT Centre in Parwan Province, northeastern Afghanistan, has changed her life. Opened in 2011, the key objective of the ICT Centre is to enable women's economic participation through training in the English language and computer skills. Beheshta successfully completed the course, along with about 80 other girls, and is currently teaching English to new students and members of her own community, in the same ICT Centre where she studied. "Educating women and girls, and women's empowerment in our community, is my dream," says Beheshta.