

Portfolio Overview

Sida's support to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 2013

The primary purpose of UNHCR is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. In 2013, Sida's support to UNHCR amounted to 211 MSEK, of which all was humanitarian assistance in response to emergency appeals in regional or country specific refugee and/or internal displacement situations. All Sida support to UNHCR's operations is funded from the humanitarian budget line and based on assessments of humanitarian needs.

Financial Overview

Sida's support to UNHCR is complementary to the annual Swedish core support, channelled by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA). In 2013, MFA contributed 582 MSEK in un-earmarked core funding to UNHCR's annual global budget, making the Swedish contribution to UNHCR a total of 793 MSEK. With this contribution, Sweden is the fourth largest donor to UNHCR. For Sida, UNHCR is one of the three largest humanitarian partners in terms of volume of financial support.

The amount of Sida's support to UNHCR has increased gradually since 2004. This increase has continued during the period 2008–2013 as a response to new and protracted refugee situations in the world. The increase was also a result of a policy decision in 2005, which allowed Sida 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 Emergency appeals. This shift was made in order 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.

Due to global growing demand to protect and assist refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) the number of Sida contributions to UNHCR increased during 2008–2011. However, the marked decline in the number of contributions in 2012 and 2013 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).

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

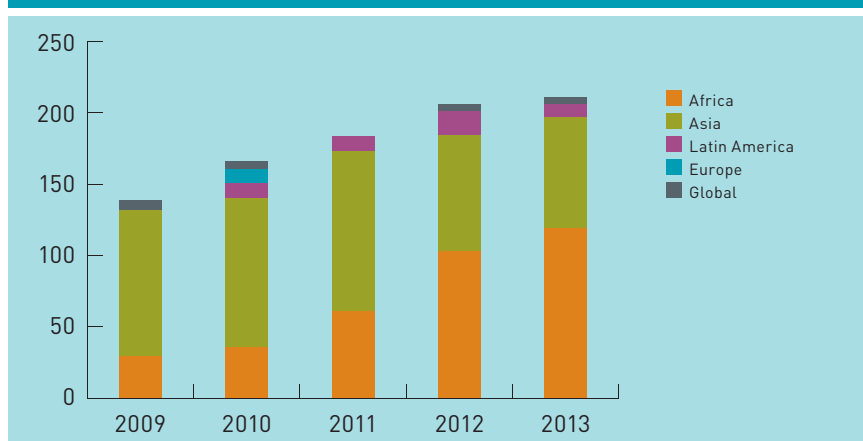
Contributions from Sida to UNHCR for programmes and projects are often entitled "multi-bi" (multilateral bilateral) support or earmarked, non-core contributions. These should be distinguished from non-earmarked contributions to the organisation's regular budget, usually called core support and also labelled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

Geographical and Thematic distribution

The allocation of support per region varies from year to year depending on where refugee situations and new emergencies occur in the world. Over the years, Africa and Asia have received the majority of the support (Chart 1). In 2013, the contribution to Latin America included Colombia, a country hosting 4.7 million internally displaced persons under UNHCR's mandate or care. The contributions to Africa included support to UNHCR's operations in Mali, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hosting 3.3 million IDPs under UNHCR's

TABLE 1: SIDA'S ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS TO UNHCR 2008–2013

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of contributions	8	9	14	13	2	1
Total Amount (MSEK)	95	139	166	186	209	211

CHART 1: SIDA'S SUPPORT TO UNHCR BY REGION 2009–2013 (MSEK)**TABLE 2: SIDA SUPPORT TO UNHCR BY COUNTRY 2013**

Country	MSEK
Mali	32.9
Yemen	28.9
Chad	24.9
Syrian Arabic Republic	20.0
Democratic Republic of Congo	14.9
Somalia	13.1
Kenya	12.0
Afghanistan	9.9
Ethiopia	9.9
Iraq	9.1
Colombia	9.1
Myanmar	9.1
Uganda	6.9
Central African Republic	5.1
Global	5.1
Total	211

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 action 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 (CCCCM), 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.

The strategic priority in Sida's support to UNHCR for 2013 has been thematic support to enhanced field implementation of UNHCR's policy on Protection from Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

mandate), Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and the Central African Republic. Contributions to Asia included support to operations in Yemen, Syria (4.6 million IDPs), Afghanistan (1.5 million IDPs), Myanmar and Iraq. All Sida support to UNHCR's operations is based on assessments of humanitarian needs, and the budget source for Sida's support to UNHCR is funding from the humanitarian budget line.

Results

Global Trends

The first half of 2013 was one of the worst periods of forced displacement in decades. By the middle of the year, the size of UNHCR's population of concern reached an all-time high. Conflicts such as those in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali have forced more

than 1.5 million individuals to seek refuge, predominantly in neighbouring countries. In addition, at least 456,000 persons submitted applications for individual asylum. By mid-2013, the total population of concern to UNHCR stood at 38.7 million, while the global number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate was estimated at 11.1 million. This was the highest level on record and almost three million more than just six months earlier. The number of people displaced by conflict reached an 18-year global high of 45.2 million people in 2012 and 2013.

- Over 189,300 refugees returned to their countries of origin during the first half of 2013, some 84,700 of them with UNHCR's assistance.
- Some 33,700 refugees were resettled during the first half of 2013, almost all of them (33,500) with UNHCR's assistance.

Projects and Programmes

- In 2012, Sida's support made it possible for UNHCR to assist 73,910 refugees and 69,993 internally displaced.
- Among those countries where Sida supported UNHCR's operations in 2013, some 688,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) returned home during the reporting period, many with UNHCR's assistance. The highest numbers of IDP returns were reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (421,000) and Yemen (97,000). Meanwhile, Somalia reported some 1.1 million IDPs protected and/or assisted by UNHCR.
- Uganda, one of the recipients of Sida's support to UNHCR in 2013, was an important destination country for asylum-seekers (24,100 claims).